# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

VOL. II - 1931

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THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

943 SOUTH HOOVER STREET

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# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

Published monthly by
THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

MRS. JOHN VRUWINK, *General Chairman* MRS. PALMER COOK, *Subscription Chairman*
MRS. WALTER VAN DYKE, *Vice Chairman* MRS. GEORGE RYALL, *Preview Chairman*

Editors
Mrs. John Vruwink Mrs. H. Sutherland Campbell
Mrs. Margaret Argo

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## A RESPONSIBILITY

A recent number of "The Outlook" publishes a letter from Carl Laemmle, President of Universal Pictures, to Mr. Creighton Peet, the distinguished critic whose reviews appear in the periodical. Mr. Laemmle says that public taste is changing and asks Mr. Peet to help in "the solution of our readjustment to the rapidly changing standards of the American nation". In other words, to learn the secret of how to please the public all the time.

Mr. Peet's reply is interesting. He frankly states that it is too big a job to please all the people all the time, and suggests that no formula can meet the "public taste" as though it were a unit "whose members are of a single mind at any one time." He agrees that the motion picture audience is changing and that the talking picture has brought new patrons and discouraged others. The "movie habit", thoughtless, time killing, uncritical, is disappearing. Discrimination has begun.

This has always been the objective of organized women's motion picture interest. Through years of criticism and ridicule women's groups have actually had two ideals only in view: encouragement of a greater production of maturely intelligent films, and secondly more pictures presenting life so simply, honestly and decently that children may not be entirely deprived of this great form of entertainment, and not be confused by a sophisticated outlook until they are firmly oriented. It is exactly what Mr. Peet suggests—to "make movies to fit people."

There are a number of reasons undoubtedly why the taste of American audiences is changing. The article in the Outlook gives suggestions, and they may be the only reasons for the more critical attitude noticeable toward motion pictures. But we believe that the leaven of women's interest is also contributing. The five groups of women previewing thru the courtesy of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, are members of national organizations whose members are undoubtedly interested in the reviews sent out. Thousands of copies of the reports made by the representative committees are sent to chairmen and in turn copied for individual members. Many are listed in newspapers and at least one magazine

with a large national circulation carries the reviews of one group. It is impossible to know how many persons these reach, or what the influence, but at least we feel justified in believing that the work is a contributing factor to this evidence of changing taste.

Mr. Peet does not offer "mother's clubs" any bouquets. A caustic article published a year ago was entitled "Our Lady Censors". He blamed women's groups for all the banality of motion pictures. He claimed that we sat with producers in Hollywood over script and production, and cut from lines and action all wit, sophistication and robust vitality. He congratulates the industry for "slipping a few intelligent films by the women's clubs". Farthest from the truth is the impression that we have any censorial privileges—or desire to have any! The pictures reviewed at the Academy are always finished products and often are already released. Our comments are useful only to our readers in guiding their own attendance at neighborhood theatres. If our comments seem the more enthusiastic, are more loudly expressed over a delightfully portrayed story which school boys and girls may also enjoy, it is only because it seems more important to us that these films are recognized. The talking pictures have greatly limited the number which interest and entertain youngsters. The "roads to childhood" in motion pictures have been closing gradually but surely. As Mrs. Winter says, "sound makes good things better, and bad things worse" and dialogue has definitely lessened the number of pictures suitable for children.

Mrs. Gladys Case Miller, formerly Principal of Work With Children in the Los Angeles Public Library, recently read a paper before the National Librarian's Association, in which she urged greater cooperation from the producers of motion pictures in making pictures which children could safely see and appreciate, which would open vistas of truth and beauty and joy to them. The cry has come from all over the country. Mrs. Miller says, "The work of women's organizations creating a public demand and arousing and awakening the individual sense of responsibility has blazed the trail." In response to this need Paramount has made "Tom Sawyer". Those who have seen it realize how completely the picture delights children (and adults). Praise, congratulations, thanks to Paramount is appreciated we feel sure, but only the **box office** can give practical assurance that the "public—American taste" approves the effort. It is important that we as individuals, feel the responsibility by visiting the neighborhood theatre, taking children and the neighbor's children. There will be other films too. "Abraham Lincoln" will teach more history in a delightful hour and a half, than school will in six months. Watch the lists!—not only for children's entertainment but for our own evening's pleasure, and let us convince the Producers, by discriminating attendance, that the "changing standards" of the American public, to which Mr. Laemmle refers, are going higher!

# FEATURE FILMS

**ALOHA.** Ben Lyon, Raquel Torres. Direction by Albert Rogell. Tiffany. Seen in Preview.

This is the sordid story of an American's marriage to a half caste South Sea girl and of her unsuccessful adjustment among her husband's unnatural and cruel family. Miss Torres gives a sympathetic interpretation of the girl but the unpleasant theme is sentimentally exaggerated in its treatment until it is an ugly emotional orgy for anyone willing to sit through it.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Absolutely not. **Children, 8 12.** No.

—o—

**THE BAT WHISPERS.** Chester Roberts. From the Play "The Bat" by Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood. Direction by Roland West. United Artists.

Here is an exceptionally good mystery film packed with suspense and blood curdling thrills to the very end. With a well chosen cast, who play most satisfactorily, and a liberal sprinkling of humor to relieve the tenseness, this picture cannot fail to please the lover of this type of entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes, if not too exciting for pleasure. **Children, 8 to 12.** Too terrifying.

—o—

**BEAU IDEAL.** Ralph Forbes, Loretta Young. Direction by Wm. Le Baron and Harold Brennen. A sequel to "Beau Geste" by Percival Wrenn. R.K.O. Seen in preview.

The further adventures of John Geste in the French Foreign Legion, are full of action and thrills, providing robust entertainment which will interest and entertain. The love interest is of less importance than a theme of loyalty between childhood playmates.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Probably very entertaining.

**THE BLUE ANGEL.** Emil Jannings, Marlene Dietrich. From a novel by Heinrich Mann. Direction by Joseph Von Sternberg. Ufa of Berlin. Paramount.

Mr. Jannings impersonates an unworldly middle aged German professor of English literature in a boys' school which makes plausible his decided accent. It is the tragic story of a man's moral breakdown, somewhat similar to the familiar type of theme he played in the American productions, "The Way of All Flesh" and "Sins of The Fathers". The finished artistry of Mr. Jannings and Miss Dietrich is notable in their splendid portrayals, and the direction is of course admirable. Painstaking attention to detail is noteworthy, although American audiences may consider it at times too frank. The photography is characteristic of Ufa productions. Pantomime is emphasized and the picture seems very deliberate but not less dramatic. The return of Mr. Jannings to our screen will be welcomed and the vehicle deserves to attract discriminating attention.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No, too sordid. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**COLLEGE LOVERS.** Jack Whiting, Marion Nixon. Direction by John C. Adolfi. First National.

Light, amusing, innocuous comedy with an imaginary and exaggerated atmosphere of school life. The heroine is the cause of bitter rivalry between two football players whose game suffers in consequence, until her impartial attitude toward both is recognized.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Lightly entertaining. **Children, 8 to 12.** Entertaining.

—o—

**CHARLEY'S AUNT.** Charles Ruggles, Flora Sheffield, June Collyer. Direction by Al Christie. Columbia.

This long familiar farce has been revamped for the talking films with a dash more of slap-stick, a trifle more of vulgarity, and a tinge less of comedy. Given

a little good will and indulgence, probably all the family will enjoy it.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Yes. Yes.

—o—

**THE DEVIL TO PAY.** Ronald Colman. Play by Frederick Lonsdale. Direction by George Fitzmaurice. Samuel Goldwyn Productions. United Artists.

This is the very human story of a wholly charming, irresponsible man, gifted with the joy of living and with a delicious sense of humor, who suddenly and quite unexpectedly finds himself in love with another man's fiancee. The plot is amusingly clever, the dialogue is sophisticated and witty, the direction smooth and deft and the acting very satisfying. It should prove delightful entertainment for those enjoying good comedy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Rather mature. Too mature to interest.

—o—

**DOORWAY TO HELL.** Lew Ayers. From story by Roland Brown. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Brothers.

"The Doorway To Hell" is a startling, exciting but apparently truthful picture of the beer racket as we hear of it today. It is excellently done and it is unusual in its ruthless portrayal of this menace to society. Lewis Ayers is the self-made leader who tries to get out. His character is real and understandable but not admirable. The others in the cast also give strong interpretations so that one receives a vivid impression of the vicious character of this underworld warfare and cannot fail to appreciate its stern and miserable lesson. Many adults will think it worth seeing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Cannot harm. Hardly necessary: too terrible.

—o—

**THE EASIEST WAY.** Constance Bennett, Adolph Menjou, Robert Montgomery. M.G.M. Seen in Preview.

A successful presentation of the well known stage production: a melodramatic story of a girl whose early choice later wrecks her life. The theme is suitable and intelligible to adults only.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
No. No.

**EX FLAME.** Neil Hamilton, Marion Nixon. Direction by Victor Halperin. Liberty.

A highly sentimental story of domestic misunderstanding. The action includes sudden death, unmerited scandal, divorce, kidnapped child — melodramatic to the final expected reconciliation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
No. No.

—o—

**FAIR WARNING.** George O'Brien. Direction by Alfred Werker. Fox.

A Western melodrama in which familiar plot material is redressed in an entertaining manner and set in beautiful out-of-door scenery. The hero is a likable person whose love of nature and wild animals endears him to his audiences. The thrilling action is typical of hard-riding, quick-drawing "Westerns", but on the whole it has much to recommend it, especially to youthful audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Yes. Very exciting.

—o—

**FIGHTING THRU.** Ken Maynard. Direction by William Nye. Tiffany.

Western action film in which youthful mine owners are cheated until the villain is overpowered in a sound fist fight. It is exciting and as far from reality as possible, but, boys especially, will enjoy the constant action and the hero's remarkably intelligent horse.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Yes. Yes.

—o—

**FREE LOVE or MODERN WIVES.** Genevieve Tobin, Conrad Nagel. Directed by Hobart Henley. Universal.

A clever portrayal of the woes and vicissitudes of married life make intriguing and delightful entertainment, abounding in keen wit, humor, and satire. Though there will undoubtedly be some who will take issue with the outcome of the play, nevertheless as a whole the picture will be very amusing. Excellently directed and well-cast, it preaches without being preachy and is very direct.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Questionable. No.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER.** Ed Wynn, Ginger Rogers. From George White's production "Manhattan Mary". Direction by Norman Taurog. Paramount.

Against a background of gangster and thug society, Ed Wynn, as a waiter, clowns through an inconsequential story of his efforts to obtain theatrical fame for his employer's daughter. Despite occasional moments of hilarity, the hour and a half seem long for even the most absurd dialogue, unrelieved by action, bores. Certainly children would find it more dull than less critical adults and in addition, and more seriously, the constant emphasis on the criminal motif and consequent confusion of moral values, makes farces of this type undesirable for junior audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Confused moral values. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**THE GREAT MEADOW.** From novel by Elizabeth Madox Roberts. John Mack Brown, Eleanor Boardman, Lucile LaVerne. Direction by Charles Brabin. M.G.M.

The Great Meadow is a strong historical drama, covering an interesting and seldom portrayed period, that of the settlement of Kentucky by settlers from Virginia who were inspired by Daniel Boone's enthusiastic stories of the marvellous meadow country "across the mountains". It is a realistic and thrillingly dramatic portrayal of the pioneer's struggle with the elements and natural obstacles, and the constant terrifying menace of hostile Indians. It particularly emphasizes the tragic and courageous part played by women in pioneering. The general effect of the picture is inspirational because of the beauty of character portrayed, the sympathy, helpfulness and unselfishness by which the early settlers sought to strengthen each other. The charming love story, reminiscent of Enoch Arden, is presented with rare delicacy and the acting is on the whole excellent. It is well worth seeing.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Excellent. **Children, 8 to 12.** Possibly too strong.

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(Note—This film has been recut and changed materially since our "preview" review appearing in the December, '30 bulletin and the changes make it much more interesting. It is now highly recommended.)

**HOOK, LINE AND SINKER.** Wheeler and Woolsey. Direction by Edward Cline. R.K.O.

Through the efforts of the comedy team in the guise of promoters, the heroine's ramshackle old hotel becomes unbelievably popular. It is then robbed and wrecked, but happiness is assured when a reward is given for the capture of the robbers. Enjoyment of this type of farcial comedy is entirely a matter of taste for the nonsensical humor, although never to be taken seriously, is frequently touched by actual vulgarity.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Not recommended. **Children, 6 to 12.** Not recommended.

—o—

**LADY OF THE LAKE.** Percy Marmont, Benita Hume. Direction by James Fitzpatrick. English Production. SILENT.

The story of Sir Walter Scott's poem told simply, directly, and pleasantly. The exquisite scenery and classical significance recommend it.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Of doubtful interest.

—o—

**THE MAN WHO CAME BACK.** Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell. Based on the play and story by Goodman and Wilson. Direction by Raoul Walsh. Fox.

This is a stereotyped, melodramatic tale of the spoiled young son of wealth, who falls to the degradation of life in a Shanghai opium den, where he meets again the little cabaret singer, whom he had loved previously. To save one another, they struggle heroically to conquer their depraved desires, and finally "come back" to an ordered life and happy film ending. The acting is adequate for an unconvincing and unpleasant picture, which is so theatrical and exaggerated in its presentation as to smack of the old time "melerdramer" at its height.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Unsuitable. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**MEN ON CALL.** Edmund Lowe. Direction by John Blystone. Fox.

A romantic drama showing the restoration of a man's faith in the woman he loves, uses the Coast Guard for an entertaining if somewhat melodramatic background. The plot is a bit trite and the

picture not particularly convincing, nevertheless it is fair entertainment of a clean and wholesome type.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes. **Children, 8 to 12.** Harmless but rather mature.

—o—

NEW MOON. Lawrence Tibbett, Grace Moore. Directed by Jack Conway. M.G.M.

A sophisticated musical romance, utilizing once more the "princess-commoner" theme, is admirably produced and enacted and serves as excellent background for the gorgeous voices of Mr. Tibbett and Miss Moore. It might have been treated more subtly and one regrets that it must stoop at times to vulgar burlesque totally out of keeping with the rest of the picture. However, because of its value musically, artistically, and dramatically, it will provide splendid entertainment for the adult audience.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Hardly. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

ONE HEAVENLY NIGHT. John Boles, Evalyn Laye. Direction by George Fitzmaurice. United Artists.

A pleasantly amusing musical play which is too mature in theme for youthful audiences. A cabaret singer is exiled for indiscreet behavior and persuades the cafe flower girl to impersonate her. In living up to the other's reputation this girl finds herself in embarassing situations. The cast is effectively chosen. Miss Laye, making her screen debut, is talented and charming, with a splendidly trained voice and she has ability as a comedian. It is an entertaining film for adults.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

PART TIME WIFE. Edmund Lowe, Leila Hyams, Tommy Clifford. Direction by Leo McCarey. Fox.

The family physician advises a young husband to take up golf as a cure for uncontrolled temper and irritable nerves which have brought him to the verge of a divorce. To a running accompaniment of current golf jokes, and greatly enhanced by the heart-touching portrayal of the little caddy and his dog, the comedy moves gayly to a family reconciliation and a happy ending. Barring the unbelievably silly chasing scene, an evening's pleasant unimportant diversion is afforded.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes. **Children, 8 to 12.** Probably passable.

—o—

RANGO. Ernest Schoedack Production, synchronized with sound and music. Paramount. Seen in preview.

Rango is the name of the giant ape found in the jungles of Sumatra. Two Rangoes, a father and son, and two human beings, an old man and a boy, are the central characters of this unusual story of the struggle for existence amid the most primitive surroundings, and against their common foe, the tiger. Mr. Schoedack, with Merian Cooper produced "Chang", "Grass" and "Four Feathers" and the present production is another to be highly recommended for all audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Yes.

—o—

REACHING FOR THE MOON. Douglas Fairbanks, Edward Everett Horton, Claude McAllister, Bebe Daniels. Direction by United Artists. Seen in preview.

Fairbanks is happily cast as a Wall street "dynamo" with no time for romance, who is startled to find his absorption in business shattered when a girl sails for Europe. He follows, and the crossing is the setting for uproarious fun. It is an entertaining farce, spontaneous, and sophisticated, but good fun.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Entertaining. **Children, 8 to 12.** Mature.

—o—

REDUCING. Marie Dressler, Polly Moran. Direction by Charles Reisner M.G.M.

Comedy predominates but there are tears also in the simple story of two sisters whose deep love for another is severely strained by family irritabilities, jealousies, and real trouble. The humor descends to slap stick but it is really amusing and never boring and Miss

Dresslar's fine characterization gives a very human touch throughout.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Yes. Not entirely suitable but parts will entertain.

—o—

**THE RIGHT TO LOVE.** Ruth Chatterton, Paul Lukas. From the story "Brook Evans" by Susan Glaspell. Directed by Richard Wallace. Paramount.

A painstaking and interesting effort has been made to film Susan Glaspell's story of woman's right to live. Miss Chatterton gives a memorable performance in the two roles of the mother who pays dearly through many weary years for her youthful love affair, and then of the daughter who is unable to understand the mother's suffering and sacrifice until she herself has loved not wisely, but too well. As presented, the story is confused, at moments even weak, and except for the brilliant acting leaves a somewhat disappointing general impression. The theme is unsuitable and uninteresting to junior audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No interest. No.

—o—

**SCANDAL SHEET.** George Bancroft, Clive Brook, Kay Francis. Direction by John Cromwell. Paramount.

This is the story of the managing editor of a "yellow" daily whose policy was "If it's news, print it!" irrespective of what it was or whom it might destroy. The atmosphere of a metropolitan newspaper office seems to have been presented sincerely, and the character of Motly Flint, as portrayed by George Bancroft, is admirably consistent and believable. It is an intelligent production, dramatic and interesting — the final ending only seeming, in a way, an anti-climax after so moving a story.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Of probable interest. Too mature.

—o—

**SIN TAKES A HOLIDAY.** Kenneth McKenna, Basil Rathbone, Constance Bennett. Directed by Paul Stein. Pathé.

A clever but improbable story treats a 'marriage de convenience' which evolves into one of real love. It is not sufficiently lightly done for farce and not convincing enough to be taken seriously. It will have its appeal to adult audiences in that it is smart, sophisticated, beautifully staged, and in general well acted.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Not recommended. No.

—o—

**WHITE THUNDER.** Charles Starrett, Captain Bob Bartlett, Louise Huntington. Direction by George Melford. Seen in Preview.

This is a genuinely interesting film of an expedition into Canadian ice fields in search of seal skins. Interest never lags, for in addition to the educational qualities of the picture, there is a nicely developed plot unfolding the story of a man whose bad luck is finally overcome in a dramatic climax. It is different, entertaining, highly recommended.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Excellent. Exciting.

# SHORT SUBJECTS

BURTON HOLMES TRAVELOGUE SERIES. Producer, Burton Holmes. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

This series of travelogues is by far the most interesting that we have reviewed. The scenes are decidedly out of the ordinary tourist paths and yet chosen with such rare discrimination that the spectator leaves with a vivid, unified impression of the far country or strange customs which have been shown. Despite an occasional blur in the photography, everyone will enjoy these pictures, to which added charm is given by the pertinent comments and subtle humor of the lecturer.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes, highly. **Children, 8 to 12.** Yes.

—o—

No. 1. "SULTAN'S CAMP OF VICTORY."

The Sultan of Morocco reviews his tribesmen, who give a magnificent display of Arab horsemanship.

No. 2. "TALE OF THE ALHAMBRA."

The architectural beauty of a famous palace is further illuminated by historical commentary.

No. 3. "PEEPS AT PEKIN."

Glimpses of the Forbidden City and scenes of native life.

No. 4. "DUBLIN AND NEARBY."

Ireland, its army and humorous comments thereon.

No. 5. "IN MOROCCO."

Scenes of native life in Rabat and Casa Blanca, with the contrasts of modern and age-old customs.

No. 6. "THRU THE YANTZE GORGES"

A two thousand mile trip up the Yantze and the interior of China, with the perils of such a voyage safely seen from one's comfortable chair.

No. 7. "CHINA'S OLDMAN RIVER."

River life and customs in China.

No. 8. "SPAIN'S MADDEST FIESTA."

A hilarious four day fiesta in Northern Spain, which culminates in an amusing and bloodless bull-fight.

EX-PLUMBER. Lloyd Hamilton. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational Pictures.

Comedy based on jealousy, deceit, and family quarrels. Not cleverly portrayed and not worth seeing.

—o—

HIGH STEPPERS. A Grantland Rice Sportlight. Van Beuren Corp. Pathé.

An exhibition of various track activities selected from different athletic meets. The slow motion should prove highly instructive to beginners in these sports. Good.

—o—

KNIGHTS IN KHAKI. Produced under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America. Direction by Donovan Miller.

A cast of Boy Scouts demonstrates in a simple story, the daily life and training advocated by their organization, and illustrates by their precepts for the development of character, good citizenship and resourcefulness, as well as many interesting facts of scout lore. Although somewhat amateurish, it is replete with the charm and vitality of youth and will be good entertainment for the whole family.

—o—

MARRIAGE ROWS. Educational Pictures.

This is a slapstick comedy which treats family relations lightly and witlessly. The theme is what might be expected from the title. Not recommended.

—o—

MONARCHS OF THE FIELD. Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathé.

A presentation in which intelligent hunting dogs are shown in action in the field. Very entertaining.

—o—

MYSTIC ISLES. A Vagabond Adventure with Tom Terriss, the Director. Van Beuren Corp. Pathé.

A trip to the Dutch East Indies depicting the scenic beauty of the Islands'

native life and art with accompanying description. Good for all audiences.

—o—

THE SPELL OF THE CIRCUS. Francis X. Bushman, Jr., Alberta Vaughn. Bobby Nelson. Direction by Robert Hill. Universal Serial. (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10.)

A mystery romance told in chapter form, which because of its circus atmosphere will have general appeal to children. The story is simple and the circus scenes interesting and varied. The suspense is less exaggerated than commonly found in serials and the action is logically developed in the chapters previewed.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Probably entertaining.** **Children, 8 to 12. Passable but exciting.**

THREE HOLLYWOOD GIRLS. Eddie Nugent. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational Pictures.

A light comedy about three aspiring movie stars who help each other with their meager resources until success is reached by one at least. It is above the average for this type of production.

—o—

WIZARD LAND. Tom Terriss Adventure. Pathé.

A visit among head hunters in which a bit of "majic" saved the adventurers' lives. Interesting and instructive for all audiences.

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## FEATURE FILMS

**BACHELOR FATHER.** C. Audrey Smith, Ralph Forbes, Marion Davies. From the play by Edward Childs Carpenter. Direction by Robert Z. Leonard. M.G.M.

A deliciously naughty comedy concerning a man whose self-indulgence has left him with gout and three illegitimate children and who, when old age creeps upon him, gathers his children to him, and through them discovers new happiness. In spite of a definite effort to remain as closely within the bounds of propriety as could possibly be done with a play of this nature, it remains entirely too sophisticated for youthful audiences. However it can be heartily recommended as light entertainment for adults.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** **Children, 8 to 12.**

No. No.

—o—

**BEHIND OFFICE DOORS.** Mary Astor, Robert Ames. From an original story by Alan Brener Schultz. Direction by Melville Brown. R.K.O.

Though we see in the picture a pleasing cast and attractive settings, the plot, which concerns a private secretary who wins the love of her young employer, is unconvincing, mediocre, and shop-worn. The bright spot in the whole is the work of Miss Astor whose characterization is intelligent and sincere.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** **Children, 8 to 12.**

No. Unsuitable.

**THE CRIMINAL CODE.** Walter Huston, Phillip Holmes. From the play by Martin Flavin. Direction by Howard Hawks. Columbia.

The picture closely follows the original story of the play: of a boy who is sentenced to the penitentiary for an accidental killing. There he loses his morale and is saved only through the sympathetic efforts of the warden. It is a convincing and dramatic portrayal of the criminal code and our prison system, unsentimental, and intensely interesting, but depressing. Walter Huston gives a masterly performance. The direction is admirable.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** **Children, 8 to 12.**

Possibly interesting;
depends on individual.

—o—

**DANCE FOOLS, DANCE.** Joan Crawford. Direction, Harry Beaumont. M.G.M.

Joan Crawford's brilliant acting, a good cast, satisfactory direction plus the suspense and thrills of melodrama are not enough to reconcile us to the sordid, tawdry, unwholesome atmosphere which pervades this too often repeated story of racketeering and gangland society. When the girl reporter discovers that her brother is the murderer the only way out of the plot's complications is three murders! It is entertaining for adults who like their melodrama in strong doses.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** **Children, 8 to 12.**

Undesirable. No.

**DESERT VENGEANCE.** Buck Jones, Barbara Bedford. Direction by Lew King. Columbia.

A highly melodramatic and unreal western in which our noble hero is deceived by a winsome "lady crook". Our sympathy for him is divided when we learn that he also is a desperado—the leader of a gang of bandits with a desert hide-out. A final gun battle kills off everyone but the reunited pair. It is pretty poor entertainment for anyone.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No! No.

—o—

**DIVORCE AMONG FRIENDS.** James Hall, Lew Cody, Natalie Moorehead, Irene Delroy. Direction by Roy Del Ruth. Warner Bros.

Jealousy is the disruptive cause for contemplated divorce between two young people. The plot is trite, and the action and dialogue exceedingly vulgar, the quarrelsome dialogue being particularly offensive and of a type generally attributed to "fish-wives" rather than to cultured people.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
By no means. No!

—o—

**DRACULA.** Bela Lugosi, Helen Chandler. From the novel by Bram Stoker and the stage play by Hamilton Deana and John Bladerstone. Direction by Tod Browning. Photography by Karl Freund. Universal.

This play concerns the nocturnal adventures of Count Dracula, a vampire in his quest for human blood — the only thing which will sustain his "undead" existence—and his ultimate extermination by a famous scientist. Those familiar with the book or stage production will find that this famous tale of horror loses none of its eerie qualities in its adaptation to the screen, which is remarkably successful. It is unique in plot, and is especially well cast. The settings and photography produce a weird background admirably suited to further establish an unreal atmosphere. But the succession of horrors make its entertainment value entirely a matter of taste.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No. Decidedly not.

**FIGHTING CARAVANS.** Gary Cooper, Lily Damita, Ernest Torrence, Tully Marshall. Direction by Otto Brower and David Burton. Paramount.

A simple love story unfolds against the historical background of the westward trail, a period filmed so frequently of late that the test of novelty is quite lacking. The two hard drinking old scouts and their amusing dialogue are so entertaining that one excuses them for slowing up the action of the picture. It provides agreeable diversion for all the family.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Yes. Yes.

—o—

**THE GANG BUSTER.** Jack Oakie. Direction by Edward Sutherland. Paramount.

Another farce built upon the gang activities in our cities. The inimitable comedy of Jack Oakie is shown to advantage as a naive country boy who captures two rival gangs in one short day. Although undeniably entertaining, the burlesque is overshadowed by intensely realistic scenes of gun play and murder, and the gangster element appears in rather romantic light.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Not recommended. No.

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**GENTLEMAN'S FATE.** John Gilbert, Louis Wolheim. Direction by Mervyn Le Roy. M.G.M. (Seen in Preview.)

A wealthy young bachelor, about to be married, learns that he is in reality the son of an Italian bootlegger. Filial kindness causes him to assume suspicion of theft to save his dying father, and his name and character then gone, he joins the game with his brother. As adult fare, it is entertaining, due to smooth direction, excellent cast, and clever character parts with very amusing lines. The ending is consistent although directing false sentiment to the hero. It is adult fare only.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No. No.

—o—

**GIRLS DEMAND EXCITEMENT.** John Wayne, Virginia Cherrill, Marguerite Churchill, William Janney. Direction by Seymore Felix. Fox.

The theme roughly summarized is, "What happens at a small college when

boys try to rid the school of coeds." Unfortunately (unless past graduates are not sufficiently up to date to appreciate a modern setting) the college spirit, life, and students depicted seem very shallow, a little silly, and thoroughly untrue to college traditions. It is not recommended as being entertaining fare.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

GOING WILD. Joe E. Brown. Direction by Wm. Seiter. First National.

This is another version of "The Aviator" the story concerning the misadventures of a young and brash reporter who is mistaken for a retiring and reticent world famous writer and aviator. He continues the impersonation, only to find himself forced to fly and the resulting absurdities form hilarious nonsense.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Probably very amusing. **Children, 8 to 12.** Funny and harmless.

—o—

INSPIRATION. Greta Garbo, Robert Montgomery, Lewis Stone. Direction, Clarence Brown. M.G.M.

The forced and over-worked story of the woman with a past (in this case an artist's model), who falls deeply in love with an innocent young art student, serves as the latest vehicle to exploit the alluring and subtle charm of Greta Garbo. Even the noteworthy cast and excellent direction cannot wholly redeem the weakly moving play, an echo of many and better predecessors, as it toils on its way to the silent, final scene of renunciation, raised far beyond its dramatic merits by the heart breaking poignancy of the star's acting. The theme is unsuitable for junior audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No. **Children, 8 to 12.** No interest.

—o—

THE LASH. Richard Barthelmess, Mary Astor. Adapted from the novel "Adios" by Lanier and Virginia Bartlett. Direction by Frank Lloyd. First National.

A romance of early California, in which a young Spanish Don turns bandit to avenge the wrongs of his people. It is full of action, good riding and gun play, and is fair entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Probably entertaining. **Children, 8 to 12.** Fair.

LITTLE CAESAR. Edward R. Robinson, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Direction by Mervyn Le Roy. First National.

This is the story of the rise of one Caesar Rico from a small town bandit to assistant ruler of the underworld. Little Caesar, as interpreted with startling realism by Mr. Robinson, is an exceedingly vain and ruthless individual, who finally loses his battle against society through injured ego. Like most plays of gangland, this includes the plottings, the robberies, the killings and the argot common to the type. It is a clever interpretation of gangster activities and the miserable lesson to be recognized, but it isn't entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No: of no value. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

LONELY WIVES. Edward Everett Horton, Laura La Plante, Patsy Ruth Miller. Direction by Russel Mack. Pathe.

A graceless farce with Mr. Horton as a roving husband who hires a vaudeville impersonator to substitute for him in eluding his mother-in-law. A "bed-room comedy" of this type undoubtedly appeals to some audiences, but the dialogue is so incredibly coarse that it will be actually offensive to many persons, and we warn our readers that Mr. Horton has allowed his talent to be used in one of the most vulgar farces to be released in months.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Absolutely not. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

MAN TO MAN. Phillip Holmes, Lucille Powers. Direction by Allan Dwan. Warner Brothers.

This simple unpretentious comedy achieves distinction because of the manner of its presentation. It is the story of a really lovable small town boy who cannot rise above the disgrace of his father's prison term, although the father is respected in his community and the crime was more or less excusable. The father is finally redeemed in the son's eyes, (but it seems almost as essential that the son should be equally redeemed in the father's.) The character types are excellently portrayed and it is very human in its appeal.

**Adolescents, 1 2to 16.** Good. **Children, 8 to 12.** If it interests.

MANY A SLIP. Joan Bennett, Lew Ayres. Direction by Vin Moore. Universal.

This worthless attempt at farce limps painfully along by way of stupid innuendo and incredible transgressions of good taste on the subject of expected motherhood. It is unsuitable in theme for junior audiences and too hopelessly dull for adults.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

MOTHER'S CRY. Dorothy Peterson, Helen Chandler, David Manners. Adapted from Helen Grace Carliale's novel of the same name. Direction by Allan Dwan. First National.

Here is a story of a mother's love and sacrifice in rearing four children. The tragedy which envelops two of them is mitigated by the joy, comfort and peace which the other two give her. The theme is well developed and directed and while suitable and interesting for adults is heavy farce for adolescents because of its pathos.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Too tragic. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

NO LIMIT. Clara Bow, Stuart Irwin, Harry Green. Direction by Frank Tuttle. Paramount.

Except for those who will be disappointed because the title promises more than the picture gives, adult audiences will generally enjoy "No Limit". Clara Bow is suitably cast as a movie usherette who unknowingly marries a crook and the unassuming story is entertaining. It is smoothly directed, well photographed, and has amusing comedy.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Passable. **Children, 8 to 12.** Theme unsuitable: Little interest.

—o—

ONCE A SINNER. Dorothy Mackaill, John Holliday. Direction by Guthrie McClintic. Fox.

Badly directed and poorly acted, we must again review a picture based on the much used theme, "Is a woman's past her own?" Certainly, neither entertainment nor convincing proof either pro or con, is offered by this dull, stupid film.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Unsuitable. **Children, 8 to 12.** No interest.

OUTWARD BOUND. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Helen Chandler, Leslie Howard — and all star support. From the play by Sutton Lane. Direction by Robert Milton. Warner Brothers.

"Outward Bound" is a unique portrayal of the beginning of life after death. Deftness in acting and direction creates a delicate atmosphere which in no way offends your beliefs or your sensibilities. The play concerns the passage of a number of recently deceased persons to their ultimate destination. Each, though he does not realize it, creates his own Heaven or hell. The delineation of character is so successful that you agree with the judgments rendered by the "Examiner". Interest centers about two attempted suicides who share the experience with the others, realizing the mistake they have made, but who are saved for this life, knowing that suicide is not the solution of their problems. It is preeminently a play for a discriminating audience of adults and mature adolescents. Even those who are inclined toward religious dogmas will find it thought provoking.

"Who seeks for heaven alone to
save his soul
May keep the path, but still
not reach the goal;
While he who walks in love
may wander far,
Yet God will lead him
where the blessed are."

Henry Van Dyke.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** A matter of taste. **Children, 8 to 12.** Too mature.

—o—

THE PAINTED DESERT. William Farnum, J. Farrell MacDonald, Helen Twelvetrees, William Boyd. Direction by Howard Higgen. Photography, Ed Snyder. Pathe.

This has an interesting story of the way in which two men, who have been enemies for years, are reunited in friendship. It is a gorgeous western, presented with the natural beauty of the Painted Desert as background, novel in plot, and with well developed suspense and action. It is very entertaining.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Excellent in interest. **Children, 8 to 12.** Good.

—o—

RESURRECTION. Lupe Velez, John Boles. Adapted from the novel by Count Leo Tolstoy. Direction by Edwin Car-

ewe. Photography by Bob Kurrle. Universal.

This is a fairly interesting revival of Tolstoy's well known and tragic story, its theme—love, suffering, and spiritual resurrection. It is sincerely presented and is well acted. The subject is for adult appreciation only.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No, too sophisticated. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**THE ROYAL BED.** Lowell Sherman, Nance O'Neill, Mary Astor. From the play "The Queen's Husband" by Robt. E. Sherwood. Direction by Lowell Sherman. R.K.O.

The Queen's husband (the orginal and far more appropriate title of the play) belies appearances and proves himself very much a King. He adroitly solves the political crisis by installing the leader of the rebels as his Prime Minister and flounts domestic traditions by marrying his daughter to the secretary, instead of to the dissolute Prince, who is left waiting for his bride on the Cathedral steps. Mildly satirical in tone, it is a pleasant comedy with excellent direction and a capable cast.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Possible. **Children, 8 to 12.** Not interesting

—o—

**THE ROYAL FAMILY OF BROADWAY.** Ina Claire, Fredric March, Mary Brian, Henrietta Crossman. From the play by E. Ferber and G. S. Kaufman. Direction by G. Cukor and C. Gardner. Paramount.

A clever comedy, full of wit, humor and more than a touch of pathos, portrays the dominating urge to act, which is innate with members of the Cavendish family, famous actors for three generations. They colour every off-stage situation with the glow of the foot-lights, each plays his life as a role, and when family pride or the theatre says "On with the play", no sacrifice of health, affairs of the heart or personal inclinations can outweight their loyalty to the trouper's instinct. Praiseworthy also are the eminent cast and satisfactory direction.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes, if interested. **Children, 8 to 12.** No interest.

—o—

**THE SPY.** Kay Johnson, Neil Hamilton, Direction by Berthold Viertel. Fox.

This is a serio-comedy of great human interest though probably more imaginative than realistic. It concerns the activities of the "Tcheka", a Soviet secret service system, in apprehending those who threaten the existence of the State. The case with which the picture interests us, is that of an exiled Czarist whose wife and son remain in Russia.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Of probable interest. **Children, 8 to 12.** Too mature and exciting.

—o—

**TRADER HORN.** Harry Carey, Duncan Renaldo, Edwina Booth. Based on the book by Ethelreda Lewis. Direction by W. S. Van Dyke. M.G.M.

Every writer of adventure seems eclipsed by this thrilling production, for few imaginations are vigorous enough to visualize equatorial Africa as "Trader Horn" pictures it. It is different, astounding, entertaining! The scenic backgrounds are breath taking; the unusual and often frightful scenes of wild jungle animals are caught with superb photographic effect; the native savage witchcraft, or ju-ju, seems entirely in harmony with the wildness of the country. Sound is an unforgettable adjunct. The elements of drama which are introduced in the story, incredible as it may seem, contrive only to increase the impression of reality. The casting is excellent and the direction and assembling of the material are uniquely satisfying. It is a great picture for the timid who take their adventure second-hand, or for the daring who appreciate it the more because of their own experience. The educational value must not be overlooked in recommending it for older school children who cannot fail to get an enduring visual impression of this amazing and yet real environment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Excellent. **Children, 8 to 12.** Very exciting.

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
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# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

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LOS ANGELES BRANCH

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MRS. JOHN VRUWINK, *General Chairman* MRS. PALMER COOK, *Subscription Chairman*

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Editors

Mrs. John Vruwink Mrs. H. Sutherland Campbell

Mrs. Margaret Argo Mrs. George Ryall

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## FEATURE FILMS

**CHARLIE CHAN CARRIES ON.** Warner Oland, Marguerite Churchill. From the story by E. D. Biggers. Direction by Hamilton McFadden. Fox.

This mystery story of "Saturday Evening Post" renown, proves itself almost as good as a screen thriller. Excellent contrast to the tense action and many moments of suspense is afforded by that lovable fount of quaintly garbled proverbs, the very intelligent Mr. Charlie Chan, pride of the Honolulu police force. Mr. Oland's interesting characterization of the name part is heightened by a good supporting cast and capable direction. We recommend it highly for lovers of this type.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes. **Children, 8 to 12.** Too exciting.

—o—

**CITY LIGHTS.** Charlie Chaplin. United Artists.

In the full flood of "talkies" Mr. Chaplin reappears in his long awaited new, silent film. So consummate is his art, that with him the lack of speech passes unnoticed, and sound is used effectively even to provoke laughter at the expense of the "talkies". As for the story, all the elements of the Chaplin formula are present, humor, pathos in his self-sacrificing devotion to the blind flower girl, the hearty vulgarity of clowning — in short, that alternation between hilarity and tears which is the essence of his genius. For junior audiences, it is probably less enjoyable than his earlier films; but still Chaplin is the great master of pantomimic art.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Yes. **Children, 8 to 12.** Possible.

—o—

**CIMMARRON.** Richard Dix, Irene Dunne. From the novel by Edna Ferber. Direction by Wesley Ruggles. R.K.O.

A sincere and colorful transcription to the screen of Edna Ferber's novel of the Oklahoma land rush days. The theme traces the lives of Yancey Cravat and his wife, Sabra, from their early experiences as pioneers to their lives of the present day, and along with them the growth and development of a modern city from a rough pioneer frontier town. Mr. Dix and Miss Dunne give splendid performances. Their characterizations, with others in the cast, through the forty-one years of the period, are unusually satisfying. The scenic effects, especially that of the lineup for the rush, are sweeping and stupendous. Based for the most part on historical fact, and skillfully executed, the picture makes an interesting entity which can be highly recommended for the entertainment of the family.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Excellent. **Children, 8 to 12.** Too long, and too mature to hold interest through-out.

—o—

**A CONNECTICUT YANKEE.** Will Rogers. Direction by David Butler. Fox.

A delightfully fantastic tale in which

a Connecticut Yankee, tinkering with a radio set, finds himself in the court of King Arthur. This new picture featuring Will Rogers, supported by a talented cast, is a magnificent comedy based on Mark Twain's well known story. Its splendor of production and perfection of detail, together with the rich humor which the comedian never fails to supply, make it a film which undoubtedly will be outstanding in entertainment value for all audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Excellent. Yes.

—o—

**THE CONQUERING HORDE.** Richard Arlen, Fay Wray. From the story by Emerson Hough. Direction by Edward Sloman. Paramount-Publix.

Just after the civil war, the Texas cattle owners, harassed by corrupt carpet-bagger State officers, were in hard straits for a market for their cattle, until they hit upon the courageous solution of driving them north to Abilene, Kansas, the then farthest outpost of the Union Pacific railroad. The story of that first northward driven herd is here presented in adventurous and romantic fashion with the owner in the role of the heroine, and the government secret agent as the hero and guide of the expedition. The director makes the most of the opportunities of the story, and the result is excellent entertainment for all the family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Excellent. Excellent.

—o—

**FINGER PRINTS.** Kenneth Harlan, Edna Murphy. Henry MacRae Productions, direction by Ray Taylor. (10 chapters. All previewed). Universal.

Opening with a murder, with four persons under suspicion because of logical motive, the action is concerned with discovery of the guilty person by means of finger prints. The production is typical of its type but more melodramatic and sensational than seems necessary even for a serial. The theme and action make it quite unsuitable for immature audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Not recommended and of doubtful interest. By no means.

**FINN AND HATTIE.** Leon Erroll, Zazu Pitts, Mitzi Green. Direction by Norman Taurog, and Norman McCloud. Adapted from story "Mr. and Mrs. Haddock Abroad," by Donald Ogden Stewart. Paramount-Publix.

This is a comedy treated in farcical manner relating the troubles which a man experiences when he travels with his family to Paris. On the whole it is fairly amusing, tho considering the talented cast, many opportunities for really humorous comedy have been overlooked. Its value as wholesome entertainment will be largely a matter of taste.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Not recommended. Not recommended.

—o—

**EAST LYNNE.** Ann Harding, Clive Brook, Conrad Nagel. Direction by Frank Lloyd. Fox.

"East Lynne" first appeared nearly seventy years ago but still holds appeal in its tearfully sentimental story of the tradition of a man-made social order. Miss Harding's beauty and great charm are no doubt largely responsible for the success of its revival.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Of doubtful interest. Too mature.

—o—

**ILLICIT.** Barbara Stanwyck. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Bros.

This is a daring but entertaining 1931 edition of an "ultra-modern" young woman's ideas of and about marriage. She believes that marriage kills love, but finally bows to the accepted social order. The beautiful and magnetic Miss Stanwyck gives an excellent performance noteworthy for its naturalness and charm. The subject is uninteresting for children and is not particularly advisable for adolescents but will interest adults who enjoy "problem plays".

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
No. No.

—o—

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.** Norman Foster, Carole Lombard. Adapted from the play by Cooper McGrue and Walter Hackett. Direction by Frank Tuttle. Paramount-Publix.

A farce-comedy, verging frequently on the slapstick, concerns a rich man's son who is resolved to give his father serious

competition in the soap business. The humor is clean, the picture light, quick moving, and sufficiently amusing to provide mild entertainment for any audience.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Yes. Probably amusing.

—o—

**JUNE MOON.** Jack Oakie, Frances Dee. Direction by Edward Sutherland. Paramount-Publix.

This comedy depicts a would-be song writer from Schenectady who is deceived by the tinsel and glamour of New York life, and who is finally reclaimed and taken home by the girl he loves. The lines are rather clever, the picture for the most part is wholesomely humorous, and no doubt will furnish an hour's pleasant light entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Passable. No interest.

—o—

**KISMET.** Otis Skinner. Direction by John Francis Dillon. First National.

This play, set in ancient Bagdad, concerns an eventful day in the life of Hajj, the beggar. Mr. Skinner skillfully portrays Hajj as an unpardonable rogue who begs, steals, loves, and kills with an equally easy grace. He accepts the vicissitudes of his life with the spirit of the faithful Mohammedan whose religion teaches an acceptance of "Kismet" or fate. The production is interesting and sophisticated and may be recommended for a critical adult audience.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Too sophisticated. No.

—o—

**A LADY REFUSES.** Betty Compson, Gilbert Emery. Direction by George Archainbaud. R.K.O.

Sir Gerald befriends a girl of the streets and enters into a bargain to have her win back his son from drink and another adventuress. A sordid murder and final sacrifice by the woman form the climax. The production skirts censorship successfully but is admittedly of the "sex-drama" type, enjoyment of which must be a matter of taste.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No. No.

—o—

**MILLIE.** Helen Twelvetrees, Robert Ames. Adapted from novel by Donald Henderson Clarke. Direction by John Francis Dillon. R.K.O.

A drab and sordid drama about a woman who cannot stand up under disillusionment in marriage and sinks to the lowest levels of society, finally killing a former lover to save her daughter. There may be persons who will enjoy its cheapness, but its unpleasant story cannot be recommended for discriminating audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
By no means. No.

—o—

**MOTHER'S MILLIONS.** May Robson. Direction by James Flood. Liberty Production.

The inimitable Miss Robson is a real delight in this revival of the "semi-classic" of the stage. As a kind hearted old martinet she estranges her children by her Spartan training, sets Wall street ajog, and storms through law suit after law suit, but wins all hearts eventually. It is a very entertaining production, excellently cast through-out, well directed, and thoroughly amusing.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Good. Yes.

—o—

**MR. LEMON OF ORANGE.** El Brendel, Fifi Dorsay. Direction by John C. Blystone. Fox.

Another burlesque on gangster activities in which mistaken identities provide the motive for the clowning and the action. It is not sufficiently well done to be taken seriously, nor funny enough to be considered entirely from its farcical aspect. It provides very thin entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Not recommended. Not recommended.

—o—

**OTHER MEN'S WOMEN.** Mary Astor, Regis Toomey, Grant Withers. Direction by William Wellman. Warner.

A trivial story of a man who falls in love with his best friend's wife. It has little to recommend it, although the title is possibly more suggestive than the story merits.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No, of no value. Unsuitable.

PARLOR, BEDROOM AND BATH. Buster Keaton, Charlotte Greenwood. From the play by C. W. Bell and M. Swan. Direction by Edward Sedgwick. M.G.M.

This very broad slapstick grows wilder and wilder as it reels on and on and on, through bumping, tumbling, falling, hugging and chasing scenes, which even as such are better than the unsavory story. Buster Keaton seems unusually dull, in spite of the many funny gags, while Charlotte Greenwood, though infinitely more spontaneous and amusing than the others, is not nearly so entertaining as we remember her on the stage. The tempo is swift physically, but slow mentally.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Waste of time. No.

—o—

THE SEAS BENEATH. George O'Brien, Marion Lessing. From story by James Parker, Jr. Direction by John Ford. Photography by Joseph August. Fox.

An entertaining and romantic description of the part played in the World War of the so called "mystery ships" which were secretly equipped to destroy enemy submarines. The historical accuracy of the details may be questioned but the spirit of the adventure, the excellently photographed action and novel plot make it exciting and interesting for all audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Good. Yes. But exciting.

—o—

THE SOUTHERNER (or "The Prodigal"?). Lawrence Tibbett, Esther Ralston. Direction by Harry Pollard. M.G.M.

A musical melodrama which is the story of an irresponsible son of a rich southern family who assumes the role of a "hobo" and later finds romance when he realizes his love for his worthless brother's wife. The picture is disappointing in that it is slow moving, hackneyed, and poorly directed, and serves as an inadequate vehicle for Mr. Tibbett's glorious voice and spontaneity of action which are its only justification.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Passable. Too mature.

—o—

STOLEN HEAVEN. Nancy Carroll, Phillip Holmes. Direction by George Abbott. Paramount-Publix.

Good acting, the attractive personality of the leads, and the glamorous settings unfortunately tend to obscure the trend of this melodramatic, unwholesome and rather silly story. A girl with doubtful morals and a boy who has stolen $20,000, go to Palm Beach to spend the ill gotten wealth in one luxurious fling before they commit suicide. Fate, in the form of a generous millionaire, saves them from too cruel a punishment. We do not recommend this for susceptible audiences, or for that matter for too critical ones.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
No. No.

—o—

UNFAITHFUL. Ruth Chatterton, Paul Lukas. Direction by John Cromwell. Paramount-Publix.

This is an unconvincing and thoroughly unpleasant story of a woman's sacrifice of her reputation when the sacrifice seems illogical and useless. Miss Chatterton's fine acting, the charming sets and care in detail, and good direction cannot make the picture interesting or entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.
Unsuitable. No.

—o—

THE W PLAN. Brian Aberne, George Merritt. Directed by Victor Saville. Elstree Productions (English). Distributed by R.K.O.

With war again depicted in all its splendor and its horrors, this story glorifies a British spy who succeeds in destroying an intricate German plan of campaign. It is a war picture of merit, quite convincingly and sincerely done, with great fidelity to detail, if in spots, unduly drawn out.

Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children 8 to 12.
Probably of interest. Too mature and exciting.

—o—

Short Subjects

SKY PILOT. A Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathe.

An interesting picture of skiers—first in the Rockies in sand, then regular winter skiing at Lake Placid, featuring the great Olympic jump — excellenty photographed; then the new sport of water skiing. It will entertain all, especially those interested in this particular sport.

# SHORT SUBJECTS

DIXIE CHASE. Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathe.

A picture depicting a famous North Carolina hunt which will no doubt provoke some argument as to its recommendation for children as one senses the idea of unfair sporting tactics.

—o—

KING OF BUGS. Aesop Fable. Pathe.

A cartoon with musical accompaniment, which, though rather cleverly drawn, is pointless and without humor. Children will probably enjoy it.

—o—

MONKEY WHOOPEE. Produced by Talking Picture Epics.

This is an entertaining and instructive film for anyone who enjoys a visit to the monkey cage. Mr. Ditmars of the New York Zoo explains the various types of monkeys as their pictures are screened, which adds greatly to the interest. Recommended for all.

—o—

PATHE AUDIO REVIEW No. 1.

Two diversified subjects; one of the "Highways of Yesterday", a beautiful and quaint picture of an old Pennsylvania canal now to be "retired" from active service; the other of modern Harlem with its vulgar night club scenes. The two subjects are quite unsuitable as companion pictures.

—o—

PATHE AUDIO REVIEW No. 2.

Three short subjects: an interesting study of fish; the Ford collection of old historical buildings and accurate reproductions at Green Field, Michigan; and modern German Frauleins in interpretative dances. All interesting.

—o—

PETE AND REPEAT. Educational.

A fairly entertaining slap-stick comedy. Two colored blacksmiths, unwillingly exchange clothes with two escaped convicts. A chase ensues which is lacking in art but not in humor. Family film.

—o—

PIONEER DAY. Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Walter Disney Corp. Columbia.

A rollicking travesty of those pioneer films, so plentiful of late. It is a little vulgar but still good entertainment.

PLAYFUL PAN. A Silly Symphony. Walter Disney Corp. Columbia.

Pan plays and all nature dances to his music. A charming whimsicality is all pervading, and both the story and production are wholly delightful. Recommended for everyone.

—o—

SHOOTING OF DAN, THE DUCK. Clyde Cooke, Education Pictures, Inc.

A mediocre slapstick comedy of no particular appeal. Totally uninteresting to any critical intelligence.

—o—

SPIRIT OF SHOGUN. Vagabond Adventure with Tom Terris. Pathe.

A travelogue showing interesting bits of Japan, which will entertain and be worth while for all audiences.

—o—

TIGERS OF THE DEEP. A Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathe.

Deep sea fishing off Miami, Florida, giving one an excellent idea of the sport —excellently photographed and interesting throughout. For all audiences.

—o—

TOY TOWN TALE. An Aesop Fable cartoon. Pathe.

This is a charming cartoon in which a toy shop comes to life with dancing, singing and acrobatics enough to please everyone.

—o—

UNDER COVER. A Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathe.

Champions of various indoor sports are shown in exhibition games of billiards, squash, ping-pong, badminton and skating. Interesting for all lovers of sport.

—o—

ZIDER ZEE. Tom Terriss Vagabond Series. Pathe.

An interesting glimpse of Holland. Suitable and entertaining for all audiences.

—o—

WELLS OF FORTALEZA. A Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. Pathe.

Bits of interest in Porto Rico. This travelogue has the usual beauty of photography and spirit of adventure that typify the series. Of interest to all.

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

943 SOUTH HOOVER STREET

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# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

Published monthly by

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

MRS. JOHN VRUWINK, *General Chairman* MRS. PALMER COOK, *Subscription Chairman*

MRS. WALTER VAN DYKE, *Vice Chairman* MRS. GEORGE RYALL, *Preview Chairman*

Editors

Mrs. John Vruwink Mrs. H. Sutherland Campbell

Mrs. Margaret Argo Mrs. George Ryall

**Vol. II. No. 4** **APRIL, 1931** **10c per Copy, $1.00 per year.**


# FEATURE FILMS

**BACHELOR APARTMENT.** Lowell Sherman, Irene Dunne. Story by J. H. Lawson. Direction by Lowell Sherman. R. K. O.

This frothy bit of naughtiness is but the gay fulfillment of the title, with all its implications of illicit situations and suggestive repartee. Though the wealthy and philandering bachelor is won eventually by the good, young stenographer, the picture is too thoroughly risque to please any but a most sophisticated audience. Mr. Sherman directs as suavely as he acts and is to be congratulated on his dual capabilities.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
No. No interest.

—o—

**BAD SISTER.** Conrad Nagel, Sidney Fox. Direction by Hobart Henley. Universal.

This is an adaptation from Booth Tarkington's book "The Flirt" and though not as convincing, presents an interesting story of a spoiled young daughter of a small town family who, in attempting to satisfy her own selfish whims in search for something out of the humdrum, nearly succeeds in disrupting the calm, peaceful atmosphere of her home. The picture is well done and depicts American life in a life-like, homely and familiar manner.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Yes. Probably amusing.

**BEYOND VICTORY.** William Boyd, Lew Cody. Direction by John Robertson. Pathe.

The picture deals with the experiences of four American soldiers who are left in a town to hold off the enemy while a gap in the lines is being filled. The plot is further developed by showing cross sections of their lives and how they came to enlist. The realism of the war scenes and the dramatic heroism of the men does not make up for the poorly connected story which moves slowly and lacks the continuity essential to make a picture of this type convincing.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Not recommended. No.

—o—

**BODY AND SOUL.** Elissa Landi, Charles Farrell. From the stage play "Squadrons" by Elliott White Springs and A. E. Thomas. Direction by Alfred Santell. Fox.

A human and dramatic love story against a war time background, well acted, and holding suspense and interest. It is primarily a story for adult appreciation because it is a study of war hysteria and the moral standards generally believed a part of that psychology, and it is doubtful what glamorous interpretation young people might place upon it. Frankly it would have been as good a story if the love affair had not been made to appear illicit and if the producer had not felt it necessary to further emphasize it in the title.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16. Children, 8 to 12.**
Better not. No.

DISHONORED. Marlene Dietrich, Victor McLaglen, Warner Oland, Lew Cody. Story and direction by J. von Sternberg. Paramount-Publix.

This intense, harrowing story of a beautiful Austrian spy, X-27, moves consistently and inevitably to its tragic end. Miss Dietrich plays superbly the role of a Viennese street girl, turned spy in war time, who serves her country loyally until she has effected the capture of a Russian counter-spy. Only then does she realize that her love for him means more than other loyalties, so connives at his escape, even though she must pay for this treason with death before the firing squad. The direction is meticulous to the last detail and much praise is due for the general impression of dramatic unity and verity.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Too harrowing. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

DOCTORS' WIVES. Warner Baxter, Joan Bennett, Victor Varconi. Novel by H. and S. Lieferant. Direction by Frank Borzage. Fox.

From the very beginning of their married life, Nina resents the devotion of her surgeon husband to his profession, more especially to his feminine patients. For consolation of her imagined wrongs, she turns to Dr. Ruyter, her husband's assistant, who nobly sacrifices his own love for her, and persuades her to become a student nurse. During her training Nina is cured of her jealousy by this insight into the truths of doctors' lives. A capable cast and good direction add their share to the entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Doubtful. **Children, 8 to 12.** No interest.

—o—

DON'T BET ON WOMEN. Edmund Lowe, Roland Young, Jeannette MacDonald, Una Merkel. Direction by William Howard. Fox.

A very amusing comedy in which a wager between two men provokes unexpectedly embarrassing complications. It is modern and sophisticated in its treatment, with witty dialogue and finished acting by a delightful cast. Good taste in direction also adds distinction to the hour's entertainment.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Possibly amusing. **Children, 8 to 12.** Little interest.

FATHER'S SON. Leon Janney, Lewis Stone, Irene Rich, John Halliday. Adapted from story by Booth Tarkington. Direction by William Beaudine. First National.

Bill is a "regular" kid, for whom Father's loving but stern discipline seems too severe. It is a very human little story which once appeared as a silent film entitled "Boy o' Mine". It will be especially thought provoking for parents but it is really entertaining for everyone. The boy is delightful and John Halliday in a minor role, is outstanding.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Good. **Children, 8 to 12.** Good.

—o—

GUN SMOKE. Richard Arlen, Mary Brian. Direction by Edward Sloman. Paramount-Publix.

This is another instance of a good cast being wasted on a very amateurish production which is a poor combination of western melodrama and modern gangster realism. A group of racketeers settle in a western town where the ring leader learns of a chance of "making" money. There follows the serial type of bloodshed and horror with exaggerated action, forced humor, and outrageous abuse of good taste in order to achieve exciting episodes. There is no redeeming feature which can make its recommendation possible for any audience.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

HONOR AMONG LOVERS. Claudette Colbert, Frederic March. Direction by Dorothy Arzner. Paramount-Publix.

In spite of a talented cast "Honor Among Lovers" fails to live up to expectations and becomes just another triangle affair. It is the story of a girl, loved by two men, who is unfortunate in her choice and has an unhappy time until her life is readjusted. It is directed in good taste, but does not hold great interest throughout.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Not recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Unsuitable.

—o—

IT'S A WISE CHILD. Marion Davies, Sidney Blackmer. Direction by Robert Z. Leonard. M.G.M.

This is a sophisticated romantic comedy bordering at times on the risque, and yet sufficiently exaggerated to be quite humorous, which is full of vivacity, charm, and wholesome fun. A young

girl is freed from an undesirable engagement to an elderly banker when she attempts to get her brother out of difficulties and throws a wrong supposition upon herself. The picture moves with quick tempo, and is well acted and very entertaining through-out. However, in spite of so-called "proper" situations, the suggestiveness of the lines renders its recommendation doubtful for younger audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Hardly. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**KIKI.** Mary Pickford, Reginald Denny. From the play by David Belasco. Direction by Sam Taylor. United Artists.

"Kiki" won success as a stage play because an unusual and naturally vibrant personality presented it. Miss Pickford makes a studied effort to accomplish the same illusion but the result is forced. The role shows her versatility but is so foreign to her type that it is unconvincing. The theme concerns the hoydenish and risque manners of a French chorus girl to achieve romance.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Not recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**KISS ME AGAIN.** Edward Everett Horton, Bernice Claire, Walter Pigeon. Warner Brothers.

This picture, adapted from Victor Herbert's "Mlle. Modiste", though exquisitely photographed in color throughout, succeeds in being only a very feeble attempt at a musical romance. Perhaps the chief disappointment lies in the fact that Edward Everett Horton, advertised as the star, is merely given an incidental part. The scene laid in Paris, presents the well-worn theme of the aristocratic old father who refuses to give his consent to his son's marriage to a young girl of no means but with a supposedly beautiful voice. Her meteor-like rise to fame is unconvincing because of her inadequate singing. The usual happy ending obtains, of course, and all that occurs in the meantime fails to sustain the interest and is only occasionally mildly entertaining, for the simple reason that it is strangely lacking in all the elements that go toward "putting over" a good musical play.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Harmless. **Children, 8 to 12.** No interest.

**MAN OF THE WORLD.** William Powell, Carole Lombard, Wynne Gibson. Story by Michael Arlen. Directed by R. Wallace and E. Goodman. Paramount-Publix.

Though not edifying, it is engrossing to watch William Powell's vital characterization of an American ex-newspaperman who is gaining his livelihood in Paris by blackmailing rich Americans who have yielded indiscretely to the temptations of certain primrose paths. When he meets and loves an innocent young girl, it is too late for him to undo his past career and so pathetically, logically he continues on his pirate way. The supporting cast is good and the direction satisfactory.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Doubtful. **Children, 8 to 12.** Not interesting.

—o—

**MEN CALL IT LOVE.** Adolphe Menjou, Leila Hyams. Direction by Edgar Selwyn. M.G.M.

An unpleasantly realistic drama stressing emphatically the infidelities found in modern marriage, and utilizing an excellent cast to present once more the well-worn triangle and double standard problem with some variations but all of their sophistications. The material and action make it absolutely unsuitable for immature audiences.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Not recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**THE MILLIONAIRE .** George Arliss, David Manners, Evelyn Knapp. Direction by John Adolphi. Warner.

A charming story of a bored millionaire, retired and invalided by a doctor's orders, who finds new interests and new joy in living. It is delightfully presented by Mr. Arliss and an excellent cast.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Good.

—o—

**NOT EXACTLY GENTLEMEN.** Victor McLaglen, Lew Cody, Fay Wray. From the novel "Over The Border" by Herman Whitaker. Direction by Benjamin Stoloff. Fox.

The opening of the free lands of the Dakotas in the early 70's provides the background for thrilling melodrama in which three outlaws rescue a girl in distress, and in spite of themselves become her protectors. The exciting situations and gripping action are relieved by

good fun, providing a really entertaining picture which will no doubt appeal to the whole family.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Entertaining. **Children, 8 to 12.** Exciting.

—o—

**SIT TIGHT.** Joe E. Brown, Winnie Lightner. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Warner.

A rollicking slap stick comedy in which the comedians open a fake health sanatarium and promote a wrestling match between the champion and an amateur. The plot is thin, but there are many laughs for those who enjoy slap stick.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Amusing. **Children, 8 to 12.** Harmless and probably funny.

—o—

**SKIPPY.** Jackie Cooper. Robert Coogan. Direction by Norman Taurog and David Burton. Paramount-Publix.

A thoroughly delightful juvenile comedy which covers an episode in the lives of a small boy and his friend. The little actors seem natural and at ease in their roles. The comedy is good, rising to hilarity at times; the pathos, stirring; the plot true to life and of considerable depth.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Recommended.

—o—

**STEPPING OUT.** Charlotte Greenwood, Reginald Denny. From play by Elmer Harris. Direction by Charles Riesner. M.G.M.

Another trivial farce of the slap stick variety as a vehicle for Miss Greenwood, whose talents deserve something better. It is the usual story of wives who learn that their husbands are philandering and who by a trick of fate discover also that they hold the purse strings themselves. This soon brings the repentant husbands to their knees. Enjoyment of this type of production for adults must be a matter of taste, but as a behavior pattern of family life for children it is exercrable.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** No. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**STRANGERS MAY KISS.** Norma Shearer, Robert Montgomery, Neil Hamilton. From the book by Ursula Parrott. Direction by George Fitzmaurice. M.G.M.

Those who enjoy the ultra in scintillating sophistication will be pleased with "Strangers May Kiss". The acting, direction and mechanical details may well be extolled, but the theme, a delineation of the single standard, is the thing with which most women will take issue. The question of impropriety is not as important as the attractive manner in which it is presented, so attractive, indeed, that the average feminine playgoer will feel like a mud-hen by comparison. Psychologically, this is bad enough for one of seasoned morals; for adolescents it is impossible.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Pernicious. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**SUBWAY EXPRESS.** Jack Holt. Aileen Pringle. From play by Eva K. Flint and Martha Madison. Direction by Fred Newmeyer. Columbia.

A "perfect murder" by electrocution is foiled by a scuffle and a shot which brings the law into a crowded subway car to catch the murderer. It is not quite well enough done to hold keen interest as a mystery thriller, and harrowing details, not in the best of taste, prevent its recommendation for sensitive juniors.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Not elevating. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**SVENGALI.** John Barrymore, Marion Marsh. Adapted from the novel "Trilby" by Du Maurier. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner.

John Barrymore gives a magnificent interpretation of Svengali, the dirty, unprincipled rascal whose passion for Trilby and the possibilities of her voice makes him exert his fearful power over her. The spirit of the book has been caught perfectly. The story is told in excellent taste, and the well known details and settings of the period are presented faithfully. It moves swiftly and dramatically to the logical ending. It should delight those who recall the novel, and be highly interesting to anyone appreciating skill in acting.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Rather morbid in theme. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

**A TAILOR MADE MAN.** William Haines, Dorothy Jordan, Joseph Caw-

thorne. Based on the play by Harry James Smith. Direction by Sam Wood. M.G.M.

A pants presser with a yearning for high society, borrows the evening clothes of one of the shop's customers, an act which influences his life beyond any imagining. It is a fast moving farce, absurd, but lightly amusing and leaving a pleasant impression of optimism with the spectator. Mr. Haines plays his usual character of braggadocio hero, but has an occasional opportunity for straight comedy which he carries effectively.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Harmless nonsense. **Children, 8 to 12.** Of doubtful interest.

—o—

**THREE GIRLS LOST.** Loretta Young, John Wayne, Joyce Compton, Joan Marsh. Story by R. D. Andrews. Direction by Sidney Lanfield. Fox.

This is the oft-told tale of three small town girls who come to Chicago—in an airplane this time—and of what befalls them there. One is a gold digger, who becomes involved in a murder; another a trusting soul who discovers her lover to be a married man, and the third a pure, noble girl who finally wins the hero from the clutches of the gold digger. Much lingerie is exhibited and sex is counted on for much of the appeal. It is an average picture in every way.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** If they insist. **Children, 8 to 12.** No interest.

—o—

**VIENNESE NIGHTS.** Vivienne Segal, Walter Pidgeon. By Oscar Hammerstein II and Sigmund Romberg. Photographed in Technicolor. Direction by Alan Crosland. Warner Brothers.

Musical romance of real charm, set in Austria amid pomp, ceremony, and social caste which parts the youthful lovers. The action then changes to America where years later happiness is promised for the next generation. The color, good singing, and entertaining story should have general appeal.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Good. **Children, 8 to 12.** Yes, if it interests.

—o—

**WIDOW FROM CHICAGO.** Edward G. Robinson. Alice White. Direction by Edward Cline. First National.

This is the story of a young woman who bluffs her way into the underworld to find the gangster who murdered her brother. The theme is interesting in its way and contains less sentimental hysteria than many of its type.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Not recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** No.

—o—

Friday night—perhaps a movie for the family? Have you seen "A Connecticut Yankee"—with hilarious laughs for all? In this month's reviews we especially recommend "The Millionaire", "Skippy", "Father's Son", or the musical romance "Viennese Nights". There is also a western melodrama "Not Exactly Gentlemen", and "Bad Sister" is better than its title.

"Dishonored" and "Svengali" are of special interest for adult audiences.

# SHORT SUBJECTS

**CRASHING HOLLYWOOD.** Virginia Brooks. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational Pictures, Inc.

A wholesome and fun provoking short comedy in which an attractive young girl from Iowa, visiting her Hollywood cousin who is an "extra" in the pictures, provides some excitement herself when she captivates a movie magnate and then deserts him at the altar for Elmer, her Iowa sweetheart. The picture is far more artistically done than most short subjects and is delightfully amusing throughout without descending to vulgarity.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16.** Recommended. **Children, 8 to 12.** Of doubtful interest.

**IN THE SHADOW OF THE DRAGON.** Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. Pathe.

An artistic travel picture giving glimpses of Chinese life and customs. Especially beautiful are the scenes of the Temples in Mongolia and of the Chinese wall in its full length.

—o—

**WHAT A TIME.** Franklin Panghorn. E. B. Derr Production. Pathe.

Slap stick comedy in which a young man gets into unsurmountable difficulties in an antique shop. Falling plaster, broken crockery, etc., etc., It is hilariously amusing for children and quite harmless.

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of the picture, the excellent dramatic interpretations of the three leading characters, the spectacular destruction of the first dirigible, are hopelessly overshadowed by the too-melodramatic distress in certain episodes of the latter half, which is beyond reasonable ground of presumption. Therefore, though much credit should go to the production of this picture, it is not thoroughly convincing.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Yes—excepting impressionable types*

**Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**THE DUDE RANCH**

Jack Oakie, Eugene Pallette, Mitzi Green. Direction by Frank Tuttle. Paramount Publix.

A rather novel combination of western and burlesque with a gangster idea inserted, in which a stranded troupe of players attempt to eliminate the boredom of guests on a dude ranch, and become involved with racketeers. It is mildly amusing, light and harmless fare, and will probably appeal especially to younger persons with its swift action and entertaining episodes.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Yes*

**Children, 8 to 12** *Yes*

**FIFTY MILLION FRENCHMEN**

Featuring Olsen and Johnson. From the musical comedy by Herbert Fields. Technicolor photography. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Warner Bros.

This is a fast-moving farce, which as a musical comedy seemed adequate in plot. Without the music it is very light, utterly crazy fare, and the incidents, while amusing, are often sophisticated and risque. Considered as a whole it is disappointing.

**Adolescents, 8 to 16** *Not recommended*

**Children 8 to 12** *No*

**HELL BOUND**

Leo Carillo, Lloyd Hughes, Lola Lane. Direction by Walter Lang. James Cruze Production. Tiffany Pictures.

If we must concede to the deplorable production of racketeer pictures, here is one above the general average. Subtle remarks and suggestions prove far more effective than the usually depicted gun-play and violent action. The strength of Leo Carillo's personality as a gangster is evident, but the fact that he arouses the audience's sympathy from the start makes the play that much more powerful in influencing weak or adventurous youths to follow in his trail. For adults who like a gang picture especially well staged and acted, it is recommended.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No*

**Children 8 to 12** *No*

**IRON MAN**

Lewis Ayres, Robert Armstrong, Jean Harlow. Direction by Todd Browning. Universal.

A rather obvious story about a prize fighter, his faithless gold-digging wife and his manager. The theme concerns the loyal friendship between the two men against a sordid and unpleasant background. Although limited in its appeal, its redeeming feature is the characterization portrayed by Robert Armstrong.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No*

**Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**KICK IN**

From the play by Willard Mack. Clara Bow, Regis Toomey. Paramount-Publix.

A young man with a criminal record experiences difficulty when he attempts to readjust his life to honest paths, but his determination and the sincere and sympathetic assistance of his young wife make him win against all odds. Tense, nerve-wracking scenes of injustice, heart-breaking discouragements and suffering combine to make up a story which is exciting, grim, and depressing in turns. In its denouement the picture is a criticism of our social and police systems, which make it so difficult for a criminal to reform. Those representing the law are depicted as hard, cruel and dishonest—to say nothing of stupid: which is at direct variance with the portrayal of the group of law-breakers who are shown as lovable and genuine. Such propaganda is hardly commendable; the influence of this picture will be far-reaching as it is exceptionally well told and has intense dramatic and emotional appeal.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Not recommended*

**Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**LADIES' MAN**

William Powell, Kay Francis, Carole Lombard. Story by Rupert Hughes. Direction by Lothar Mendes. Paramount.

Somehow the oldest of all trades is more repugnant when practised by a man, and

consequently, the really excellent acting of Powell, the well-chosen, capable supporting cast and discreet direction can not redeem the generally unpleasant and decadent trend of the tragedy.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Demoralizing* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**LAUGH AND GET RICH** ●

Hugh Herbert, Edna May Oliver, Dorothy Lee. Direction by Gregory La Cava. R.K.O.

A trite and rather jumbled portrayal of life in a middle-class boarding house, its humor depending for the most part upon family bickering, unhappiness, and unadjusted unsuccessful personalities. To many, the commonplace, undramatic humanness of some of the picture will be sufficient entertainment, but because it is true to a life which does not call for deep emotions, or action of any consequence, it is certain to be somewhat passive in effect.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Harmless, but provides little of interest* **Children, 8 to 12** *Too mature*

**MEET THE WIFE** ●

Harry Myers, Laura La Plante, Lew Cody. Direction by A. Leslie Pearce. Columbia Pictures, Inc.

A supposedly deceased husband nonchalantly reappears, causing somewhat of a mix-up as his wife has married again. A lighter and more farcical touch was necessary to make one appreciate the absurdly amusing situations in this picture. The result is a rather tiresome affair, moving to slow tempo, which gives a good cast a very adequate chance to become wasted. Because of the way in which this picture was handled it is rather doubtful whether younger persons would be capable of discrimination, in so far as it treats marriage most casually. We cannot recommend it.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**MY PAST** ●

Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon, Lewis Stone. Direction by Roy Del Ruth. Warner Bros.

The story of an ex-mistress who is reinstated in conventionality by the timely divorce of her lover's wife and the tardy ringing of wedding bells for the heroine. It is well enough acted to entertain, but it is scarcely edifying.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**QUICK MILLIONS** ●

Spencer Tracy, Marquerite Churchill. Direction by Rowland Brown. Fox.

The production of gangster melodramas seems to be so rapid that their consequent inadequacy is finally obliterating any redeeming feature. In this instance the doubtful moral lesson that the machine gun cannot successfully replace honest effort as a short-cut to millions can in no way justify the incoherent mess of blackmailing and murders, and the poor attempt to form a continuous whole out of the stupid conglomeration of episodic material. Do we dare hope that the occasional complete failure is a prognostication of the "fade-out" of this particular type?

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Absolutely not* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**SECRET SIX** ●

Wallace Beery, Lewis Stone, Jean Harlow. Direction by George Hill. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

In an apparently unceasing stream, comes another picture of the conflict between organized gang activities, in this case bootlegging, and the forces of good citizenship, as represented by the "Secret Six" committee. Even though the law triumphs in the end the emphasis throughout is on the prevalence and monetary success of illegal ways of life. One feels uncomfortably present at a struggle between a puny little David of governmental agencies and a criminal Goliath of gang-land.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No* **Children, 6 to 12** *Decidedly not*

**SEED** ●

From the novel by Charles A. Norris. Genevieve Tobin, John Boles, Lois Wilson. Directed by John Stahl. Universal.

The problem of a happily married man, who, having retained his ambition to write in spite of the practicalities imposed upon him as father of five small and active children, is lured from his home by another woman, who offers him the cherished opportunity to create his novels free from the distractions and responsibilities incidental to his home life. This problem, together with

that of the wife as the tragic sufferer, combine to make a realistic drama of intensely human appeal; one which differs fundamentally from Mr. Norris' book, but which, nevertheless, is certain to arouse sympathetic understanding because it is not only full of pathos, but is true to life in many homely details. Beautifully acted and well directed, it is emotional, gripping, and vital—it never scintillates.

Its appeal will be purely to adults, more particularly to women, as they are especially concerned with its problems.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Unsuitable* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**SIN SHIP** ●

Louis Wolheim, Mary Astor, Ian Keith. Direction by Louis Wolheim. R.K.O.

The title, which is quite misleading in this instance, leads one to expect pure sensationalism in a drama which is fundamentally fine and lacking in anything objectionable. It is the story of a rough sea captain's love for a young girl whom he believes to be a paragon among women, but who has been tainted by the sordid environment into which she has been thrust. The effect of their mutual love on both of their lives is strongly depicted, and serves as a basis for a picture of real interest. Previously reported as "preview," Dec., 1930.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Not recommended, very serious and mature in theme* **Children, 8 to 12** *Too mature*

**THE SINGLE SIN** ●

Kay Johnson, Bert Lytell, Holmes Herbert. Direction by William Nigh. Produced by Phil Goldstone.

A woman forsakes her past life, connected with bootlegging, to marry a man of wealth and position who is unaware of her secret. Whatever success this picture may have will be due to the excellent acting and admirable directing, the story itself being too highly melodramatic to be very convincing.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**TABU** ●

All native cast. Direction by F. W. Murnau and R. J. Flaherty. Paramount.

Tabu is different. We say this advisedly. The contributing factors which make it so are its beautiful scenic effects, its pleasant musical score in the absence of dialogue, and its well-known all-native cast so skillfully directed that the acting deserves favorable comment. The picture concerns the social order and religious customs of the natives of the South Sea Islands, particularly the forbidden love of a maiden consecrated to the Gods. Adults and adolescents will find it interesting but due to its slow tempo, its length and its tragic ending, it cannot be passed for children.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Interesting* **Children, 8 to 12** *Probably harmless but tedious*

**THE TEXAS RANGER** ●

Buck Jones, Carmelita Geraghty. Direction by Ross Lederman. Columbia.

In this western melodrama a feud breaks out between the homesteaders of a beautiful valley and a syndicate of unscrupulous "land-grabbers." The heroine becomes an outlaw when her home is burned and her father killed, but her innocence is later established by the ranger who is sent out to capture her. The picture dramatizes the bigness and vigor of western life. It is good of its type, but probably of greater interest to children than to adults.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *Entertaining* **Children, 8 to 12** *Interesting, if not too exciting*

**VIRTUOUS HUSBAND** ●

Jean Arthur, Elliot Nugent. Adapted from play "Apron Strings," by Dorrance Davis. Direction by Vin Moore. Universal.

This satirical comedy is entertaining, although it is overdrawn. It is the story of the adjustment of a young husband whose actions toward his bride are governed entirely by letters written twenty years ago by an old-fashioned and dictatorial mother. If it were a little more subtle and probable it would be better entertainment, but it is amusing for adults.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No interest* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

**YOUNG SINNERS** ●

Thomas Meighan and star cast. From the stage play by Elmer Harris. Direction by John Blystone. Fox.

A theme of real importance has been so overshadowed by a display of so-called "flaming youth" that the reality of the

plea will be lost to many who see this film. Two children of the wealthy class without sympathy or understanding from their parents, find it very difficult to find the real values in life. Had the director placed greater emphasis upon their regeneration than upon the violations of propriety and good taste, he would have contributed a forceful argument, and a more entertaining picture.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *No, unwholesome* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

# SHORT SUBJECTS



**AUDIO REVIEW NO. 5**

Pathe.

A good Pathe showing (1) mountain climbing in Mexico; (2) the various and intricate machinery of this modern age; (3) a comedian and trombonist in a New York Cotton Club. Entertaining enough.

**AUDIO REVIEW NO. 8**

Pathe.

An entertaining and instructive presentation of four subjects, partaking of the nature of a "rehearsed" newsreel film. It includes an interview with the original "Lord Fauntleroy"; the various devices used in radio to portray the sounds of a train wreck; a journey through the canal of Osterode and a wrestling match between elephants in India.

**THE BACK PAGE**

George Chandler, Wheeler Oakman, Virginia Brooks. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational.

Puerile, dull, badly acted short comedy.

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER**

A Silly Symphony cartoon. Columbia.

A very clever cartoon comedy featuring various kinds of birds is not only characteristic but delightfully amusing with its excellent syncronization.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY**

A Mickey Mouse cartoon. Columbia.

The different animals perform for the benefit of Mickey's birthday in a diverting and entertaining way which will appeal to any audience.

**CALL OF MOHAMMED**

Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. R. K. O.-Pathe.

Many rites and customs in India are interestingly depicted. Recommended for all.

**CAMPUS CAPERS**

An Aesop Fable. R. K. O.

A delightful burlesque on college activities—very amusing.

**COWBOY BLUES**

An Aesop Fable. Pathe.

A burlesque on the Western which is very comical. It will entertain all audiences.

**DAYS OF SOLITUDE**

A Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. Pathe.

Beautiful pictures of mountain climbing in the Swiss Alps, and also portrayal of a rescue by the great St. Bernard dogs of that country. Unusually entertaining.

**HUNTING THRILLS**

A Grantland Rice Sportlight. R. K. O.-Pathe.

The exciting sport of capturing live alligators in Florida proves thrilling but harrowing entertainment. Not recommended for children.

**HURRICANE ISLAND**

A Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure picture. R. K. O.-Pathe.

Views of Santo Domingo Island after a terrifically destructive hurricane. Interesting for all audiences.

**HEROES OF THE FLAMES** ●

Tim McCoy, Gayne Whitman, Marion Shockley. Direction by Robert F. Hill. Serial in 12 episodes—all previewed. Universal.

This serial is entertaining, of its type. The plot concerns the struggle of a young fireman to perfect an instantaneous fire extinguisher without the loss of the formula to an unscrupulous promoter who desires to steal it. Continuous fires in every possible situation and under all conditions provide stimulating action, but it gives an excellent portrayal of the work of the fire department and the dangers and the hazards encountered in the work of protecting human life and property. It holds interest and has some educational value.

**Adolescents, 12 to 16** *A matter of taste* **Children, 8 to 12** *Exciting*

**LAUGHING GRAVY** ●

Laurel and Hardy. Hal Roach Production.

A cleverly handled farce diverting for any audience.

**LONE STARVED RANGER** ●

R. K. O.

A stuttering tramp, mistaken for a barber, is unwittingly made sheriff, and quite accidentally captures the desperado. This is a burlesque on western melodrama, quite cleverly handled, which possesses real comedy and is suitable for any audience.

**LAND OF EVANGELINE** ●

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

A delightful glimpse of the Evangeline country, its quaint fishing villages, productive farms and orchards, and picturesque buildings. Recommended for all.

**ONE OF THE SMITHS** ●

Charlie Chase. Hal Roach Production.

An amusing farce for all ages in which a salesman delivering musical instruments gets into hilarious situations.

**PATHE AUDIO REVIEW NO. 6** ●

Pathe, Inc.

Three interesting subjects—one concerning "Pigs and Pups," another "Plumes of the Pampas," showing fields of beautiful Pampas grass in the Argentine, and the last, "Ford's Tribute to Edison"—The moving in their entirety of many famous sites of Edison's discoveries to Dearborn, Michigan. All interesting and instructive.

**ROUGH AND TUMBLE** ●

A Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathe.

An entertaining picture of games typical of the title: wrestling, football, ice hockey, water polo.

**SWIM OR SINK** ●

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R. K. O.-Pathe.

Lessons in swimming by Weismuller. Instructive and entertaining.

**SPEED LIMIT** ●

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathe.

The various phases of speed from turtle racing to airplane records. Recommended for all.

**TENNIS TOPNOTCHERS** ●

Grantland Rice Sportlight. Van Buren Corp. Pathe.

An excellent analysis of tennis as taught and played by Vincent Richards. Recommended for all.

**THE WAY OF ALL FISH** ●

R. K. O.-Pathe.

A worthless comedy dwells upon family bickering to a point where it is agony to be present.

**THOM THE UNKNOWN** ●

Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. R. K. O.-Pathe.

Some views in Southern Asia which have not attained the usual Tom Terriss standards. Mildly entertaining for all audiences.

**TRAFFIC TROUBLES** ●

A Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Produced by Walter Disney Studios. Columbia.

Mickey Mouse appears as a demon taxi driver, who takes his sweetheart for a ride, which ends with a totally disintegrated car in the midst of a barn yard. A clean comedy amusing for all ages.

**THE LURE OF HOLLYWOOD** ●

Virginia Brooks, George Chandler, Bryant Washburn. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational.

A pie-throwing short of the dullest variety.

**WINDY RILEY GOES HOLLYWOOD** ●

Jack Shutta, Walter Mack. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational Pictures, Inc.

Windy Riley attempts to put over a publicity "stunt" by kidnapping a motion picture director, and his efforts prove nearly disastrous. This comedy is vulgar, inane, and without humor. It has no artistic merits and as entertainment is utterly worthless.

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
943 SOUTH HOOVER STREET

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Telephone DRexel 2177

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# MOTION • PICTURE • REVIEWS

*Published monthly by*
THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

« »

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EDITORS
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# FEATURE FILMS



## FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMS » »

Women's organizations studying motion pictures have always recognized one phase of booking as their most discouraging problem. We refer to the customary policy of neighborhood theatres, having two or more changes weekly, to book their poorest pictures over the week end and on holidays, reserving the best pictures for other days of the week. This has always been considered a sound business policy of course. Theatre men, exhibiting pictures to provide a living, realized that Saturdays, Sundays and holidays drew recreation seeking crowds anyway. The better pictures were then used to lure their attention on other nights, and the tragedy to families who found only cheap, dull and often viscious entertainment on their play nights seemed to be outweighed by the thoughtless pleasure seeking crowds who had no discrimination anyway. It has been a heartbreaking condition against which "Better Film" committees have struggled in vain.

But quite accidently we recently observed in a trade paper the first recognition that another policy may be financially sound and render social service at the same time. The Executive-Vice-President of Fox-West Coast Theaters, a very large chain throughout the middle and far West, sent to his managers the suggestion that only good pictures create real interest. The theatre has suffered with all other luxuries, and he now suggests that they play their best pictures on the nights when most people can go to the theatre. He says:

"One of the greatest problems before the industry today is to keep the public in the habit of going to pictures, not in your house alone, but in houses everywhere . . It is therefore the thought of the Management that the best pictures ought to be played on the day when most people can get to your house. The reputation which your theatre can earn by showing its best product on the days when the whole family can pass through your doors together is of extreme importance. Do not forget that the man or woman who . . can get to your house only on a Saturday, Sunday or Holiday, judges your house entirely by what you show on those days."

This, as far as we know, is the first gesture toward accomplishing the ideal of "Better Film Committees". If such a policy is sound financially as well as socially so much the better — for it will help to solve the problem of youth and the motion picture. Of course it is realized that all *good films* are not family films, but many are, and it has been almost impossible to get any but the most exceptional managers to book these

special films when family audiences could enjoy them to the best advantage.

One of the objectives of the recently formed California Motion Picture Council has been to present to the public and to exhibitors a monthly list of recommended family films. These have been selected by the joint committe representing the previewing groups of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, National D.A.R., National Society of New England Women, The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae and The Women's University Club.

These lists are already in demand. In a smaller California city one manager places a large A in all advertising and on the marqee when pictures are approved by the California Motion Picture Council as "good family entertainment". He writes enthusiastically, "It's great! Now they know — whatever the title—they can come and bring the kids! I've had all sorts of compliments on my plan." It does not detract from his other picture attendance but adds attendance on "family nights".

If the policy of booking does change, lists of this sort should prove helpful to managers wishing to secure the confidence and good will of their community.

Recent feature films of this type approved by the California Motion Picture Council are:—

| | |
|---|---|
| A Connecticut Yankee | Fox |
| The Flirt | Universal |
| Everything's Rosy | R.K.O.-Pathé |
| Laugh and Get Rich | R.K.O. |
| Shipmates | M.G.M. |
| Tabu | Paramount |
| Dude Ranch | Paramount |
| Cracked Nuts | R.K.O. |
| The Texas Ranger | Columbia |
| The Sky Raiders | Columbia |
| Daddy Long Legs | Fox |
| Young Donovan's Kid | R.K.O. |
| Skippy | Paramount |
| The She Wolf (Mother's Millions) | Liberty |
| The Millionaire | Warner Brothers |

ADVENTURES OF PRINCE AHMED » »

Story from the Arabian Nights, told in silhouettes. Producer: Lotte Reiniger. Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

This unique and unusually interesting German film is at once a mechanical triumph and an artistic achievement. The two tales of Prince Ahmed and of Aladdin from that treasure house of fantastic narration "The Arabian Nights", are presented by animated silhouettes, which in intricacy and perfection of detail, beauty of conception and execution, and poetic enchantment of background are no less than breath-taking. In fact one is overwhelmed by the inability to see it in the full plenitude of its details, and were the picture half as long it would probably be twice as enjoyable. It is a new note in films which should be seen by every student of cinematographic development.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes; But possibly hard on the eyes* |

ALWAYS GOODBYE » »

Elissa Landi, Paul Cavanaugh, Lewis Stone. Direction: Wm. C. Menzies and K. McKenna. Fox.

This is a light quite unprobable story of an impoverished girl who unwittingly becomes the accomplice of a diamond thief, only to fall in love with the intended victim of the robbery. The film is directed with cunning deftness, photographed with an eye for beauty, and played so charmingly and convincingly by Miss Landi and Mr. Stone that we feel safe in recommending it whole heartedly for a pleasant hour of relaxation.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes; a drama of action and adventure* | *Too mature* |

THE BLACK CAMEL » »

Warner Oland, Bela Lugosi, Dorothy Revier. From story by Earl Derr Biggers. Direction by Hamilton McFadden. Fox.

Warner Oland gives us another of his believable and entertaining characterizations when as Charlie Chan he unravels another murder mystery. The surprise element is well sustained, and the story is very entertaining for lovers of this type of fiction.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Too mature* |

DADDY LONG LEGS » »

Janet Gaynor, Warner Baxter, Una Merkel. From the play by Jean Webster. Direction: Alfred Santell. Fox.

What a pleasure it is to see a wholesome,

sweet picture, full of laughter and tears most delightfully incarnating the happy spirit of Miss Webster's well known book and play of the same name. It comes to the reviewer as a refreshing shower in a parched waste of gangland and racketeer life. Both Janet Gaynor as the orphanage child, and Warner Baxter as the wealthy trustee who befriends her and sends her to college, have roles almost perfectly suited to their capabilities. This film is a little masterpiece of the Cinderella type.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

THE FINGER POINTS » »

Richard Barthelmess. Direction by John Francis Dillon. First National.

The logical though sordid theme of this picture concerns the gradual moral disintegration of a decent young reporter who sells himself to racketeers for huge sums of money. When he finally decides to free himself from them, the finger of the leader points to him, placing him "on the spot". The picture ranks high as a vehicle for Mr. Barthelmess' sincere acting but the gangland motif limits its appeal to those interested in this type.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

THE FRONT PAGE » »

Adolph Menjou. Direction by Lewis Milestone. Adapted from play. United Artists.

The picture is as entertaining as the play and will be popular for the same reasons. It is a fast moving, amusing comedy of newspaper men showing their unconquerable devotion to, and enthusiasm for their work. The cast is excellent, the lines and situations are very funny, and the direction all that can be desired. Men, particularly, will enjoy it.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Possibly, but pretty strong* | *No; unsuitable* |

GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN » »

Frank Fay, Laura LaPlant.

Warner Bros.

A fast moving farce in which a notorious "Don Juan" promises to give up his former life if the attractive girl will marry him. It is light rowdy fare, suitable only for adults looking for very frothy amusement.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

THE GOOD BAD GIRL » »

Mae Clark, James Hall. Direction by Roy Neil. Columbia.

With suspense and some good acting as its only assets, another melodrama is presented which now glorifies the "gangster's moll." We are asked to believe that the title can be true and that no past is a handicap for a girl who wishes to "settle down" after her fling in the underworld. Mature audiences will find this dull and unconvincing. We do not recommend it for any half way mentality, either under or over twenty-one.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Absolutely not* | *No* |

INDISCREET » »

Gloria Swanson, Munroe Owsley, Ben Lyon. Direction by Leo McCarey. United Artists.

The comedy has a serious underlying theme of a girl's struggles to save her younger sister from making a mistake which she herself once made. It is difficult to comment on this production because personal prejudice will certainly evaluate its entertainment value for most spectators. The story is treated in farcical and slapstick manner with only occasionally serious moments. It is fast moving in tempo, sophisticated and witty in dialogue, and broadly comic at times. The acting is sometimes brilliant and again so exaggerated that it is merely slapstick. Miss Swanson sings delightfully without interruption to the interest in the action. On the whole we commend it to everyone's taste, but not for children.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Not recommended* | *No* |

LAUGHING SINNERS » »

Joan Crawford, Clark Goble, Neil Hamilton. Adapted from the play "The Torch Song". Direction by Harry Beaumont. M.G.M.

This is a very sordid drama of a woman's moral struggle and eventual salvation through the influence of the Salvation Army. It is not a pleasant story but Miss Crawford is sincere in her portrayal, and possibly the moral lesson may offset the grimness for some spectators.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

**THE LAWYER'S SECRET** » »

Clive Brook, Charles Rogers, Richard Arlen, Fay Wray, Jean Arthur. Direction by Louis Gasnier and Max Marcin. Paramount-Publix.

A lawyer works out his problem as a human being with a duty to his fellow man, and as a lawyer with devotion to the ethics of his profession. The story is well told, well cast and is directed with commendable reserve, making it gripping entertainment. It carries also a significant suggestion to those who often fail to realize that heedlessness and thoughtlessness are dangerous paths to trouble.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12 *Too mature*

**THE MALTESE FALCON** » »

Bebe Daniels, Ricardo Cortez, Dudley Digger. From the novel by Dashiel Hammett. Director, Roy Del Ruth. Warner Bros.

The trend of the new detective fiction is certainly toward greater sophistication of characters and dialogue—stories of the half and underworld. "The Maltese Falcon" is of this type. The so called "hero" is a racketeering detective under suspicion of murder; the "heroine" a woman of more than doubtful morals. But the unusual plot is very skillfully handled, and the cast is excellent throughout. It will appeal to those for whom the unfolding of plot is of more interest than sympathy for characters (for whom there is none.) We believe it is essentially a man's picture—those who enjoy mystery stories.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No, too sophisticated* — Children, 8 to 12 *No!*

**MISBEHAVING LADIES** » »

Lila Lee, Louise Fazenda, Lucien Littlefield. Direction by William Beaudine. First National.

After an absence of fourteen years an American-born princess returns to her midwestern home town. Her unostentatious arrival is unnoticed, but when she learns of the elaborate preparations which are being made for her, she slips away and returns in royal fashion.

The title of the picture is a wilfull misrepresentation and much of the publicity on it is misleading. Suffice it to say, the film shows no misbehaving ladies but sturdily bears the brunt of its misnomer in giving us an ideal, uproariously funny comedy, exceptionally free from cheapness and innuendo. A splendid cast and capable direction add to its merit.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Excellent* — Children, 8 to 12 *Amusing*

**NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET** » »

Leslie Howard, Conchita Montenegro. Direction by W. S. Vandyke. From the book by Peter B. Kyne. M.G.M.

An American boy of culture and good breeding becomes infatuated with a half-caste girl, and comes to realize that their different worlds prevent the reconciliation of their love. This age-old problem is presented in a very gripping and human way, and is sure to provide excellent adult entertainment. It is likely, however, that adolescents would be too much affected by its sensual appeal at the expense of the moral involved.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

**THE PUBLIC ENEMY** » »

James Cagney. Direction by William A. Willman. Warner Bros.

The theme traces the lives of two men from their boyhood, where certain vicious characteristics are already apparent, to manhood when with the advent of prohibition they become bootleggers, rich, licentious and brutal. The picture cannot be considered entertainment since it deals with so distasteful a phase of our social order. However it is executed with skill and does not glorify the thug.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

**SHIPMATES** » »

Robert Montgomery, Ernest Torrence, Dorothy Jordan. Direction by Harry Pollard. M.G.M.

With commendable adherence to the traditions and customs of our Navy, a salty, sea-going yarn is woven around a happy go-lucky gob, who falls in love with the Admiral's daughter. Episodes, comic, grim, adventurous follow in quick succession. In addition to clever lines, a good cast, and admirable direction ,an ever present atmosphere of youth and romance adds much to everyone's enjoyment of this refreshing and vigorous comedy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Decidedly* — Children, 8 to 12 *Yes*

SIX CYLINDER LOVE » »

Edward Everett Horton, Lorin Baker, Una Merkel, Sidney Fox. Adapted from the play "The Minute Man" by W. A. McGuire. Direction by Thorton Freeland. Fox.

A delightful and wholesome comedy takes as its theme the difficulties and embarrassments which beset the newly wedded Sterlings, after they have embarked upon a scale of somewhat riotous living quite beyond their income. Excellent direction and good acting embellish the simple story with so many humorous touches, that the lesson of reasonable economy is taught without prosiness. A pleasant evening's pastime.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Little interest*

THE SKY RAIDERS » »

Lloyd Hughes, Marceline Day. Direction by Christie Cabanne. Columbia Pictures Corp.

A government pilot with a weakness for liquor loses his plane and his job, but reforms and re-establishes himself in favor when he thwarts the plans of a band of crooks. This production is startlingly on the order of serials with its hairbreath parachute drops and dashing rescues, and though it has not sufficient merit to rank as particularly good entertainment for adults, yet it probably will appeal to the average youthful audience as "keen". Its moral effect is negligible and right and wrong are clearly defined.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Probably entertaining* — Children, 8 to 12: *Exciting but probably harmless*

TARNISHED LADY » »

Tallulah Bankhead, Clive Brook. Original story by Donald Ogden Stewart. Direction by George Cukor. Paramount-Publix.

The fascinating personality and excellent acting of Miss Bankhead brings vitality to a theme which is in reality tawdry and melodramatic. It is a character study of Nancy Courtney, impecunious aristocrat who, loving some one else, marries for money. Later she leaves her husband only to find after sundry disillusionments, that she loves him. One regrets that such a trifling inconsequential story should have had as much talent in cast and direction lavished upon it.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Probably not* — Children, 8 to 12: *No interest*

UP FOR MURDER » »

Lew Ayres, Genevieve Tobin. Direction by Monta Bell. Universal.

The infatuation of a "cub" reporter for the society editor of the same paper involves him in the murder of the newspaper owner. This is a melodramatic portrayal of a tragic and unwholesome situation, unconvincing because of lack of sequence, unsympathetic characterizations, and a definite staginess of the actors themselves who are worthy of better opportunities.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

UP POPS THE DEVIL » »

Norman Foster, Carole Lombard. Direction by A. E. Sutherland. From the play by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich. Paramount-Publix.

A serious problem of readjustment between a married couple is treated as light comedy. The man who wishes to write, stays at home while the woman become the wage earner. Domestic irritations, constant interruptions from bibulous friends, and more serious misunderstandings contribute to create the climax. The dialogue is sophisticated and "smart", and the cast is good, but the picture is only mildly diverting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

WHITE SHOULDERS » »

Jack Holt, Mary Astor. Adapted from book by Rex Beach. Direction by Melville Brown. R.K.O.

A somewhat fantastic marital problem story or social serio-comedy, which compells attention because it is dressed in such an attractive garb. The theme has possibilties which are not realized and a mental review of the whole classifies it as "poor stuff".

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS » »

Victor McLaglen, Edmund Lowe, Greta Nisson. Direction by Raoul Walsh. Fox.

The slight story concerns the rivalry of two rough, coarse, and amatory marines over women in every port of their travels. We first met Quirk and Flagg in the stirring war film "What Price Glory", but their further adventures without the background of that terrific physical and emotional experience now seem unimportant and trivial. The rowdy slapstick humor is suggestive of the type of comedy which we fancy was once

labled "For Men Only". However it skirts obvious vulgarity and becomes a matter of taste.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

YOUNG AS YOU FEEL » »

Will Rogers, Fifi Dorsay. Story by George Ade. Direction: Frank Borzage. Fox.

This picture is a disappointingly inadequate vehicle for Will Rogers. It is seldom funny, never witty, and borders frequently on the risqué. The few telling touches of satire in the story of the dyspeptic old father who suddenly shocks his sons by becoming a gay man-about-town with an irrepressible dancer friend, do not redeem the unfulfilled expectations of wit and droll humor which we have learned to associate with the star.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not very interesting*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

YOUNG DONOVAN'S KID » »

Richard Dix, Jackie Cooper. From the story "Big Brother" by Rex Beach. Direction by Fred Niblo. R.K.O.

A gripping if somewhat sentimental story of a gangster's reform because of his desire to give the best chances in life to a small boy left in his care. It is plausible and leaves an impression of sincerity, although the officers of the law and social workers suffer somewhat in the telling. Jackie Cooper is very winning and we feel that the boy he pictures will become a splendid citizen through the efforts of his friends.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

NOTE »

Mother's Millions retitled "The She Wolf". Reviewed in March bulletin. (The ways of title makers are past understanding.)

# SHORT SUBJECTS

ANIMAL WORLD OF MAKE BELIEVE » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

Dr. Raymond Ditmars, of New York, introduces a number of animals whose protective coloration is their means of self-preservation. Recommended for all.

BURTON HOLMES TRAVELOGUES » »

For M.G.M., silent with accompanying description by Mr. Burton Holmes.

These Burton Holmes pictures are not only highly educational and interesting, but have achieved marked distinction because of their true artistic value. Mr. Holmes is a splendid lecturer, giving information and entertaining descriptions which are delightful and which will appeal to all audiences.

I. Busy Barcelona
The views of this ancient city which is Spain's greatest seaport are very fascinating.

II. Glories of Nikko
Exquisite scenes of Japan and Japanese customs with their beauty and charms.

III. Bit of Heaven
A charming glimpse of Ireland with its simple and its rugged beauties.

CASTAWAY » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Walter Disney, Producer.

The amusing experiences of Mickey Mouse with the native animals of a desert island. Recommended for all.

CHILDREN OF ALL LANDS SERIES » »

Silent; one reel each; directed by Madeline Brandeis. R.K.O.-Pathé.

Delightful little sketches of children in different lands, suggesting the different customs, habits, clothing of the countries. They are particularly suitable for younger children and entertain while instructing.

1. A Wee Scotch Piper
2. The Little Indian Weaver
3. The Little Swiss Wood Carver
4. The Little Dutch Tulip Girl

CLEAN UP ON THE CURB » »

Roscoe Ates. Direction by Lloyd French. R.K.O.

A coarse theme, most of the action of which consists of people falling off a roof into a

vegetable cart, causing the street cleaner tremendous anxiety. Not recommended.

COUNTY SEAT » »

"Chic Sale." Direction by Mark Sandrich. R.K.O.

A silly farce too obviously a vehicle for "Chic" Sale. Trivial and boresome but otherwise harmless.

DIAMOND EXPERTS » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathé.

The technique of catching, pitching and sliding in baseball as shown by the "Old Masters" themselves. Recommended for all.

FACING THE GALLOWS » »

Direction by Chester Bennett. Chester Bennett Production.

This picture, one of a series of criminal stories depicting actual experiences from the past of Nick Harris, famous detective, goes to prove that truth is stranger than fiction. The theme—a "murder mystery" turning out to be an accidental death—will appeal to lovers of detective-crime stories, and will serve as gruesome but gripping entertainment of the same variety.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes, excepting impressionable types* | *No, too mature* |

THE FIGHT TO LIVE » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

A thrilling picture of marine life and the struggle of certain forms for existence, with an accompany talk by Dr. Ditmars. Recommended for all.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY SERIES » »

One reel each; silent; edited at Harvard University. Produced and distributed by R.K.O.-Pathé.

The reels are excellently photographed, well arranged and are artistically presented. In each the geographical location of the country is made clear, with the customs, habits, dress and diet of each people, and many of the innumerable scenic beauties. They are engrossing in interest and very entertaining for all audiences.

1. A Bit of Life in Java
2. The Mongols of Central Asia
3. Wanderers of the Arabian Desert
4. The Malays of Sumatra
5. The Battaks of Sumatra
6. The Masai (of Central Africa)
7. The Forest People of Central Africa (pygmies)
8. The Guild Cities of Belgium
9. Houses of The Artic and The Tropics
10. Boats and Fishermen of the Artics and Tropics

MOTHER GOOSE MELODIES » »

Silly Symphony Cartoon. Walter Disney, Producer.

King Cole is entertained by modernized characters from Mother Goose. Recommended for all.

THE MYSTERY TROUPER » »

Robert Fraser, Buzz Barton, Blanche Mahaffey. Direction by Stuart Paton. Serial in 10 chapters. All Star.

A young man falls heir to a lost mine. He has one half of a map which will locate it. His adventures in outwitting desperadoes who also are searching for the mine provide the action. It is a plausible story, simple and easy to follow with excellent photography of lovely scenery, but the production is amateurish and so poorly constructed that interest lags. Children, however, will love the action and beautiful horse which shares the stellar honors.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Little interest, probably* | *Exciting of its type but morally harmless* |

WATER BUGS » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathé.

A diverting as well as instructive picture showing Johnny Weismuller as a professional swimming instructor with some of his young pupils. Recommended for all.

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# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JULY 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
943 SOUTH HOOVER STREET

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# MOTION • PICTURE • REVIEWS

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LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

« »

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MRS. WALTER VAN DYKE, *Vice Chairman*
MRS. PALMER COOK, *Subscription Chairman*
MRS. GEORGE RYALL, *Preview Chairman*

EDITORS
Mrs. John Vruwink
Mrs. Margaret Argo
Mrs. H. Sutherland Campbell
Mrs. George Ryall

VOL. II. No. 7 JULY, 1931 10c per Copy, $1.00 per Year


## FEATURE FILMS



*ALEXANDER HAMILTON » »

George Arliss, Doris Kenyon. Direction by John Adolfi. Warner Bros.

Against antagonisms, political jealousies, intrigues and personal embarassments, Alexander Hamilton stands in his indomitable will for that which will work toward the betterment of his country, the passage of the Assumption Bill. A most stupendous and powerful drama such as only Mr. Arliss can create, it so towers above the average picture that one is awed by its paramount effect. From the first when Washington gives his farewell address to the soldiers, to the dignified ending, it is full of interesting well constructed detail, beautiful in scenes, personalities and costumes, and valuable in moral and education qualities.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Highly recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

ANNABELLE'S AFFAIRS » »

Victor McLaglen, Jeannette MacDonald, Roland Young. Adapted from the stage comedy "Good Gracious Annabelle" by Claire Kummer.

Miss Kummer's place in the screen version is even more ephemeral than it was on the stage. The story is trivial and complicated beyond belief. Even Mr. Roland Young's talent for being amusing does not shine in his several drunken scenes nor make of the picture anything but very flat meagre entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Undesirable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

*BRANDED » »

Buck Jones. Direction by Ross Lederman. Columbia.

Cattle-rustling, a stage-coach robbery, good riding, a fight and a love-interest, in brief a Western melodrama.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Thrilling*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Exciting but otherwise harmless*



THE CONFESSION OF A CO-ED » »

Sylvia Sidney, Phillips Holmes, Norman Foster. Direction by David Burton and Dudley Murphy. Paramount-Publix.

The movies interpret co-education in their own way. Consequently the glaring unreality of this picture is not obscured by the sincerity which the actors bring to it. The story concerns itself with a conglomeration of standards in a series of episodes in the life of a co-ed.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No value*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

DRUMS OF JEOPARDY » »

Warner Oakland, June Collyer, Lloyd Hughes. From the novel by H. McGrath. Tiffany Production.

To avenge the shameful death of his daughter, the half-mad Dr. Karlin set himself

*Approved for family audiences by the California Motion Picture Council.

the horrible task of annihilating every male member of the princely Petroff family. The grewsome situations and diabolical murders are melodramatic fare, fit only for the most avid followers of mystery thrillers. The cast and the direction are both good.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too harrowing*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

EVERYTHING'S ROSIE » »

Robert Woolsey, Anita Louise, John Darrow. Direction by Clyde Bruckman. R.K.O.

A carnival fakir adopts a neglected little waif, whom he tenderly raises to charming womanhood, through all the tribulations of a precarious fortune-telling, helter skelter life. This is typical Woolsey material, and for those who enjoy his wise-cracking monologues, the picture will prove lightly diverting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Little interest*

FIVE AND TEN » »

Marion Davies, Leslie Howard. From a story by Fanny Hurst. Direction by Robert Leonard. M.G.M.

The story centers around a New York family whose father is the wealthy owner of a "Five and Ten". He becomes so absorbed in amassing millions that he nearly causes the disruption of his family. This picture is exceptionally well cast and from this excellent material the director has made an absorbing, fast moving and very real picture. Its emotional scenes are treated with great strength and delicacy, and it will rank high in entertainment value for audiences of mature understanding.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Perhaps—depending on the individual*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

FORBIDDEN ADVENTURE » »

Mitzi Green, Edna May Oliver, Louise Fazenda. Sometimes released as "Newly Rich". From the story "Let's Play King" by Sinclair Lewis. Direction by Norman Taurog. Paramount-Publix.

Two aggressive mothers of juvenile stars, upon the advice of their press agents go to London with their children to meet the boy King of a small European Kingdom. This picture is thoroughly wholesome. Though simple fare for a sophisticated audience, it is recommended for all others.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Excellent*

A FREE SOUL » »

Norma Shearer, Lionel Barrymore, Leslie Howard, Clark Gable. From a story by Adela Rogers St. John. Direction by Clarence Brown. M.G.M.

Gripping, amazingly powerful, dramatically intense, yet definitely unpleasant, this study of the degeneration of a brilliant criminal lawyer through drink and of the effect of it upon the upbringing of his daughter will be of interest only to mature audiences. The code of freedom by which both father and daughter live causes an unfortunate development of their weaknesses, with disastrous results. Mr. Barrymore does the outstanding work of the film. Miss Shearer is adequate while Mr. Howard's talents are not displayed to advantage in his small part.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too tragic*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

GOLD DUST GERTIE » »

Winnie Lightner, Oleson and Johnson. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Warner Bros.

A much married young lady becomes the designer for an old fashioned concern of bathing suit manufacturers. She modernizes both the head of the firm and the design of the bathing suits with startling and amusing success. The humor is rather forced and repetitious but perhaps will be acceptable to those who like the three comedian headliners.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Little interest*

GOLDIE » »

Spencer Tracy, Warren Hymer, Jean Harlow. Direction by Benjamin Stoloff. Fox.

This picture defies constructive criticism. From the point of view of taste or morals it is inexcusable. It is in no way amusing, and is so grossly offensive that one feels grubby after seeing it.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Viscious*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No!*

HUSH MONEY » »

Joan Bennett, Owen Moore. Direction by Sidney Lanfield. Fox.

The theme concerns an unfortunate young girl who finds herself in the midst of a life that she resents and despises—among a gang of crooks. After a prison sentence she is convinced that right living is the only road to happiness which she attains and holds against

menacing odds. Though the story is reminiscent of others of its type, it is especially well directed and acted. Good discrimination is used where the moral effect is concerned. Contrasted with the ugly and discontented lives of gangsters and criminals are those more desirable which are the result of cleanness and refinement of living. Its emotional appeal is good and not overdone.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Too mature*

*A HOLY TERROR » »

George O'Brien, Sally Eilers. Direction by Irving Cummings. Fox.

A melodramatic but pleasantly entertaining Western which follows the accepted formula for pictures of this type. It includes a stalwart hero, a beautiful heroine, plotting villains, bucking horses, well-chosen scenic backgrounds and a happy ending.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Yes*

*I TAKE THIS WOMAN » »

Gary Cooper, Carole Lombard. Direction by Slavko Vorkapich and Marion Gering. From the story "Lost Extasy" by Mary Roberts Rinehart. Paramount-Publix.

This is an absorbing and simply told story of a spoiled society girl, who, carelessly flirting with a handsome ranch hand, is caught in her own trap. Married, she tries for long heart breaking months to live his life of hardships and privations. The sincerity of their love triumphs over her temporary desertion to her former life. The picture is distinguished by splendid acting, directing and beautiful photography. It is rather serious in tone, but thoroughly wholesome entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Possibly too mature* — Children, 8 to 12: *Harmless but of no interest*

JUST A GIGOLO » »

William Haines. Adapted from the stage play "Princess and Dancer" by A. Engel and A. Greenwold. Direction by Jack Conway. M.G.M.

This comedy is perfectly in keeping with its name. It tells a shoddy story in a mediocre way. William Haines in the role of philanderer meets with his usual success. In reviving the controversy of the double standard the story is sophisticated in intent though not in treatment. Those to whom the theme would appeal would probably demand more wit and finesse in the telling than the film offers.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

LOVER COME BACK » »

Jack Mulhall. Direction by Erle C. Kenton. Columbia.

A flashy, shallow story of weak characters whose unconventional lives are far from admirable. Because of a sudden infatuation, a man nearly loses the girl he really loves. His marriage and the girl's illicit affair are considered negligible obstacles toward a happy reunion. Somehow the title suggests something more pleasantly romantic but don't be mislead.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Not recommended* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THE MAN IN POSSESSION » »

Robert Montgomery, Charlotte Greenwood, Irene Purcell, Beryl Mercer.

Cast-off by a socially ambitious father because of a short term in debtor's prison, Raymond becomes a bailiffs assistant. He is placed "in possession" of the home owned by his brothers fiancee, likewise a debtor (unsuspected by the world), but socially impeccable. Needless to say, Raymond wins the fiancee. It is extremely clever, light farce, delightfully absurd, and excellently produced. While deftly handled the moral situations involving the charming heroine require more sophisticated appreciation than we care to expect from our adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

*MONSTERS OF THE DEEP » »

(5 reels). Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

A thrilling, educational film showing a fishing trip in Magdalena Bay, off the west coast of Mexico. Many varities of fish are caught, the most exciting catch being that of a huge manta or devil fish.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Interesting* — Children, 8 to 12: *Yes, possibly hard on the eyes*

PARTY HUSBAND » »

Dorothy Mackaill, James Rennie. Direction by Clarence Badger. Vitaphone.

This is the story of a young, married couple who are not going to be hampered

by old marriage customs—but alas in due course they find their theories need readjusting. There are scenes of drinking and unconventionality which are totally uninteresting except to lovers of the sensational.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Inadvisable* — Children, 8 to 12 *No interest*

REBOUND » »

Ina Claire, Robert Ames. From the play by Donald Ogden Stewart. Direction by Edward Griffith. R. K. O. Pathé.

Two young people, thwarted in their own loves, marry each other on the rebound. The husband has an affair with his former sweetheart but when his wife leaves him, he realizes that she is the finer of the two women and wins her again. The picture shows Ina Claire, always a delightful and fascinating personality, to decided advantage. The settings and clothes are exquisite. The dialogue sparkles with clever, subtle humor. There is a loss of tempo due to the amount of conversation and this, coupled with the sophistication of the theme, excludes the picture as entertainment for those under sixteen. For mature audiences it is well above average.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

THE SMILING LIEUTENANT » »

Maurice Chevalier, Claudette Colbert and Miriam Hopkins. Music by Oscar Strauss. Direction by Ernst Lubitsh. Paramount-Publix.

For those who enjoy a frothy, titillating farce, we recommend this version of an old operetta by Oscar Strauss. The engaging Chevalier, in the uniform of a dashing Viennese lieutenant proves equally irresistible to Franzi, the violinist, and to the Princess Anne (both roles are charmingly played). In the course of the struggle to win the hero's affections, sparkling dialogue, gay innuendo and romantic melodies add their share to the entertainment. The direction of Lubitsh is so distinguished that we wish for more of like calibre.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Too sophisticated* — Children, 8 to 12 *No interest*

SMART MONEY » »

Edward Robinson, James Cagney, Evelyn Knapp. Direction by Alfred E. Green. Warner Bros.

Entirely too convincing is this glamorous melodramatic story of a gambler's life, vicious in its effect because of its dramatic force and skillful execution. Our entire sympathy is held by the law breaker who is given a fascinating personality. It is top notch entertainment, but ethically dangerous as a fire brand, especially to adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Absolutely not* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

*SWEEPSTAKES » »

James Gleason, Eddie Quillan, Marian Nixon. Direction by Al Rogell. R.K.O. Pathé.

This pleasant, refreshing melodrama of race track life should prove enjoyable for all the family. Eddie Quillan plays delightfully the role of a jockey who, in trying to frustrate the dishonest plans of his employer, is temporarily involved in great difficulties. After many vicissitudes he rides a thrilling race to a happy conclusion.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Excellent* — Children, 8 to 12 *Yes*

TOO YOUNG TO MARRY » »

O. P. Heggie, Emma Dunn, Loretta Young, Grant Withers. Direction by Mervyn Le Roy. First National.

The title has no bearing on the subject matter, being a substitute for the original though probably less intriguing one of "Broken Dishes". The theme concerns a dominating mother who has tried to intimidate everyone in her family but is unsuccessful in preventing her youngest daughter from marrying the boy she loves. The final release of the husband from his henpecked life is a satisfactory ending.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12 *Yes*

TRANSGRESSION » »

Kay Francis, Paul Cavanagh. From the story "The Next Corner" by Kate Jordan. Direction by Herbert Brenn. R. K. O.

A beautiful young English wife is intrigued with the attentions of a fascinating Spaniard, and narrowly escapes bringing disaster upon her own marital affairs. This is good melodrama, done with admirable restraint and excellent reserve. The finished acting, smooth direction and charming setting combine to make a well-knit and consistent drama which will make good adult entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Too mature* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

WOMEN LOVE ONCE » »

Paul Lukas, Eleanor Boardman. Direction by Edward Goodman. Paramount-Publix.

"Daddy's gone a hunting" on the screen is a slightly uneven, only fairly convincing picture, in spite of many scenes of great emotional beauty. The story is of an artist of mediocre talent whose wife believes in him, and sacrifices for him, only to have him return to her after a year in Paris, demanding freedom to experiment in life and art alike. The tragic death of their little girl brings them together again to continue what can only be a compromise with life. It is not a happy picture, and while not harmful, it has no outstanding value for adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THE VICE SQUAD » »

Paul Lukas, Kay Francis. Direction by John Cromwell. Paramount.

The recent exposures of the unjust and disreputable methods of the New York vice squad suggested this story by Oliver Garrett. In it a respectable man turns stool pigeon and is asked to "frame" an innocent woman. The theme offered opportunity for relentless, realistic drama which might have had some social value as portraying actual conditions. But the picture lapses into sentimental melodrama and is "just another movie" — unpleasant, unsavory, and really offensive.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No!* Children, 8 to 12: *Absolutely not!*

VIKING » »

Already reviewed in the January issue under the title "White Thunder".

Well worth seeing—recommended for the whole family.

# SHORT SUBJECTS

*BLUE GRASS KINGS » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R. K. O. Pathé.

The raising and training of horses for the famous Kentucky Derby with many scenes from the Witney farm and stables.

Recommended for all.

*HEART OF A NATION » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

Interesting views of Washington, D. C., including many of the governmental buildings as seen from land and air.

Recommended for all.

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 1931

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LOS ANGELES BRANCH
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Telephone DRexel 2177

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*Published monthly by*

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EDITORS

Mrs. John Vruwink — Mrs. Margaret Argo, Mrs. H. Sutherland Campbell — Mrs. George Ryall

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## FEATURE FILMS

♣

ARIZONA » »

Laura LaPlante, John Wayne. Directed by George Seitz. Columbia Pictures Corp.

Ever romantic army life forms the background for this picture. Beautiful West Point, glimpses of the Army-Navy game, with later action shifting to an Arizona army post are interesting but give the picture a slightly bewildering effect. It is directed with the best of taste, with nothing in the least offensive. The story presents Laura LaPlante (who gives a splendid performance) as a thoroughly charming and "sweet" heroine, a girl who has deliberately lived in free love with a young man who later falls sincerely in love with her sister. The heroine, married to someone else in the meantime, compromises her former lover in an attempt to "save" her sister. With complete explanations all around, the picture ends happily. Apparently the youthful indiscretions are cheerfully condoned. The confused ethics involved in an apparently innocent girl's choosing to live in free love would seem to make it entirely unsuitable for adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

BAD GIRL » »

Sally Eilers, James Dunn. From the novel by Vina Delmar. Direction by Frank Borzage. Fox.

This is a very human, poignant story of a boy and girl who, though seemingly inarticulate and crude, yet because of fine instincts and unselfish love, make a rarely beautiful experience out of love, marriage, and parenthood. The characterizations are splendid, and great credit must go to the director who has portrayed sentiment without falling into sentimentality.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Very mature* — Children, 8 to 12: *No. Too mature*

BIG BUSINESS GIRL » »

Loretta Young. Direction by William A. Seiter. Warner Bros.

This is a casual, sketchy and improbable comedy which does not leave a good taste because it has not a truly wholesome background and because it is often purposely suggestive. It concerns the experiences of a recent college graduate who makes surprising advances in business through a discrete display of ankles and knees. A cheapened love-interest is not mitigated by the satisfactory adjustment at the end of the picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No. Stresses the wrong values* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

CAUGHT » »

Richard Arlen, Louise Dresser, Frances Dee. Directed by Edward Sloman. Paramount Publix.

Fairly interesting, semi-historical picture based on the later life of "Calamity Jane", saloon and dance hall proprietress, with cattle stealing as a side line. Deserted in her youth and deprived of her child by an army officer

husband, she lives a colorful and unconventional life out west. When she meets her son in the person of the law, she retreats, with her secret, to the great open spaces. While the background is probably true to the life of those days, it is not an especially pleasing story. It is almost totally lacking in humor, and has nothing particularly to recommend it for junior audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Questionable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

CAUGHT PLASTERED » »

Bert Wheeler, Robert Woolsey. Direction by William Seiter. Story by Douglas MacLean. R.K.O.

Two ex-vaudeville artists drift into a small town and, to aid a little old lady in distress, agree to run her drug store. Startling developments ensue, and eventual success. The story is consistent and moves with such speed that it is an excellent vehicle for the stars. The direction is in good taste, the humor really funny. It is fine "hot weather" entertainment, entirely a matter of taste of course, but good of its kind.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Yes*

CHANCES » »

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Rose Hobart.

Two brothers, devoted to each other, fall in love with the same girl. War intervenes, and one is killed. The other, who has superceded him in the girl's affections, returns severely wounded. Though the picture is well done it is too reminiscent of other and better war pictures to justify itself.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

DANGER ISLAND » »

Kenneth Harlan, Lucile Brown. Direction by Henry MacRae. Serial. Previewed in full. Universal.

The plot concerns the rediscovery of a deposit of radium on an unknown and uncivilized island off the African Coast. It is a wholesome, thrilling story full of action and with a wealth of interesting detail, worthy of the imagination and intelligence of children. For those who enjoy pictures in serial form, it can be recommended as excellent of its type.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *A matter of taste*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Yes*

DAUGHTER OF THE DRAGON » »

Anna May Wong, Sessue Hayakawa. From the story, "The Daughter of Fu Manchu", by Sax Rohmer. Direction by Lloyd Corrigan.

At the death of her father, Fu Manchu, Ming Toy swears to finish his unfulfilled mission, that of doing away with the remaining member of the Petri family. She is thwarted in this by a young Chinese detective from Scotland Yard. The picture is characteristic of the type in its gruesomeness and horror and will appeal to those who rate excitement and suspense high as elements of entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too exciting*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Not recommended*

CHILDREN OF DREAMS » »

Margaret Schilling, Paul Gregory. Direction by Alan Crosland. Warner Bros.

A girl, who has an unusually good voice, is sent to Rome to study. She returns, a famous diva, to the scene of her youthful happiness, meets her lover who has remained a fruit-picker and departs with him for a gypsy life.

The picture is done in musical comedy style and portrays fruit-picking as one of life's most idyllic enterprises.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Entertaining*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Innocuous*

*THE GIRL HABIT » »

Charles Ruggles. Direction by Edward Cline. Paramount-Publix.

An absurd story of the difficulties encountered by a flirtatious man and his fiancée. His entanglement with a Russian shop girl and her pugnacious husband, Charles Ruggles, is very amusing, but in attempting to carry to feature length a picture which is composed chiefly of gags and silly situations, the scenarist undertakes too hard a task. The humor is slightly vulgar at times, though not at all demoralizing, and its entertainment value is entirely a matter of personal taste.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Harmless*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

THE GREAT LOVER » »

Adolph Menjou, Irene Dunn, Ernest Torrance. Directed by Arthur Robinson. M.G.M.

This is a sophisticated and sparkling

*Passed by the California Motion Picture Council as suitable for family audiences.

comedy, set against the background of glamour and temperament popularly associated with opera singers. It is full of humor and pathos and is colored with charming fragments of musical interpolation. As the "Great Lover" Menjou is at his best, and Ernest Torrance as the confidential valet is perfect. The part of the story dealing with the young singer who is willing, even anxious, to offer herself in exchange for a possible career is so skilfully and delicately handled that it cannot fail to please adult audiences. However it is very doubtful morality for those whose principles are still in the forming.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

HONEYMOON LANE » »

Eddie Dowling, Raymond Hatton, June Collyer. Direction by William J. Craft. Paramount-Publix.

With a wealth of light comedy material at hand in story and cast, "Honeymoon Lane" is a disappointing production. It is the story of a gambler who is led to change his profession through the influence of a pious old lady, but the direction is so mawkishly sentimental that it all becomes a travesty. The few amusing sequences are overbalanced by vulgarity and the delightful characterization of Armond Kaliz, as the King who succumbs to the lure of cherry pie, is wasted in the trite banality of the whole.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No. Vulgar humor*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THEIR MAD MOMENT » »

Dorothy Mackaill, Warner Baxter. Direction by Hamilton MacFadden and Chandler Sprague. First National.

Again the poor young girl is urged to marry the rich old man to save the financial strain, but in true Cindrella style the young lover, disguised as a peasant, proves the richer of the two. It is not unfair to divulge the plot because it is perfectly apparent in the first reel. The title is misleading, and intriguingly suggests more than is realized in the picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Dull*
Children, 8 to 12: *Little interest*

THE MIRACLE WOMAN » »

Barbara Stanwyck. Adapted from the play "Bless You Sister". Direction by Frank Capra. Columbia.

The daughter of an old pastor, whose recent discharge has killed him, upbraids the congregation for its hypocrisy. A promoter recognizes the power in her speech and induces her to become an evangelist. She realizes what a fraud she is when the man she loves does not recover his sight through her pseudo-healing. The acting and direction are unusually good. Many of us will recognize a familiar note in the type of evangelism portrayed.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Doubtful—depends on the religious scruples of the parent.*
Children, 8 to 12: *No interest*

MURDER BY THE CLOCK » »

William Boyd, Lilyan Tashman, Regis Toomey. Directed by Edward Sloman, Ira Hards. Paramount-Publix.

Though it is excellently acted and cast, there is nothing subtle or mysteriously elusive about this picture. It is obvious from beginning to end, just a succession of gruesome murders, all suggested by a clever and beautiful woman without any doubt a monomaniac. The murder being solved for the audience at the outset, there is left not even the thrill of prolonged suspense. This picture misses fire.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THE NIGHT ANGEL » »

Nancy Carroll, Frederic March. Story and direction by Edmund Goulding. Paramount.

A public prosecutor befriends the pretty young daughter of a disreputable old lady whom he has sent to jail. In protecting the girl for whom his interest has turned to love, he murders her attacker, and is saved at the trial only by her testimony. This is not a picture for young audiences, as its problems are mature and its atmosphere a bit cheap at times. It is only fair entertainment for adults.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Too sensational*
Children, 8 to 12: *Totally uninteresting*

*PUBLIC DEFENDER » »

Richard Dix, Shirley Grey. Directed by J. Walter Ruben. R.K.O.

Richard Dix as hero-lover in the lighter variety of mystery thrillers. The story is written, directed and played with great flair. A combination of exciting and quite unbelievable situations is handled with such a human touch that it is really most enjoyable. The picture can be whole-heartedly recom-

mended for junior audiences. It is possibly a little exciting for the younger children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12 *Exciting*

SALVATION NELL » »

Ralph Graves, Helen Chandler. Tiffany.

Melodramatic in theme like its name, this picture yet lacks the necessary punch to make it excel. Even the fine sincerity of the acting cannot make the whole the kind of entertainment that is thoroughly satisfactory. The sordidness of the theme makes it unsuitable for children, and the spectacle of the downtrodden woman clinging to her brute lover is too much like the "He's My Man" type of song to appeal to sophisticated audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

THE SECRET CALL » »

Peggy Shannon, Richard Arlen, Wm. B. Davidson. Direction by Stuart Walker. Paramount.

This political melodrama manages to hold the interest though there are long periods when boredom seems imminent. The story is that of a girl who swears revenge on a crooked politician who was indirectly responsible for her father's suicide. When her chance comes, she hesitates, and by quite supernatural circumstances, the wicked man repents and retires from politics. Even an adequate cast and good direction cannot overcome the deadening fact that most of the play's action takes place over the telephone.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Too sensational* — Children, 8 to 12 *Uninteresting*

*SON OF INDIA » »

Ramon Navarro, Madge Evans. Direction by Jacques Snyder. M.G.M. First National.

In this romantic story of the life of a Hindu Prince and a white girl, we find the highest quality of gratitude and renunciation. Though the dirt and squalor of India are largely omitted, the color and atmosphere of life in the East are well maintained. The story gains in strength by a consistent ending.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Passable* — Children, 8 to 12 *Too mature*

THREE WHO LOVED » »

Betty Compson, Conrad Nagel, Robert Ames. Directed by George Archainbaud. R.K.O.

A social drama of the triangle type, well acted, and well told, but rather sombre in general tone. The hero allows his innocent, if unprincipled, friend to go to prison for his own theft of money. He confesses five years later and is ready to return the money. The impression conveyed is that he can atone for having sent an innocent man to prison by making good the theft — and also that the innocent man really deserved to go to jail anyway, because he tried to steal the love of his friend's fiancée. Here are certainly debatable ethical points for children to struggle with.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* — Children, 8 to 12 *No*

TRANSATLANTIC » »

Edmund Lowe, Lois Moran, John Holliday. Direction by William K. Howard. Fox.

Transatlantic is an excellent tale of adventure and mystery, exciting and entertaining. In the novel and picturesque setting aboard an ocean liner, one crook fails another and solves the difficulties involving several innocent persons. Splendid photography adds much to the dramatic atmosphere and thrilling action, excellent cast and good direction combine to make an entertaining picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Very sophisticated* — Children, 8 to 12 *Unsuitable*

# SHORT SUBJECTS



*THE CHINA PLATE » »

A Silly Symphony. Produced by Walter Disney, Inc. Distributors: Columbia.

This is an entirely delightful animated cartoon, with charming musical accompaniment, of the adventures which befall the characters on a "Willow Tree" Chinese plate. A pleasure for the whole family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Delightful*

*BUSY BEAVERS » »

A Silly Symphony Cartoon. Columbia Pictures.

A parody on the busy building of beavers, and full of delightfully surprising clever twists by the Mickey Mouse Crew.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Yes*

*DELIVERY BOY » »

A Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Columbia Pictures.

Mickey Mouse stops by Minnie's house while delivering a wagon load of musical instruments. A musical flirtation ensues. Very amusing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Yes*



*THE MOOSE HUNT » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Columbia.

This is an amusing take off on big hunting. The wide open spaces and moose hunting, with the same surprising and entertaining figures.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Yes*

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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*Published monthly by*

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

« »

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EDITORS

Mrs. John Vruwink Mrs. Margaret Argo Mrs. George Ryall
Mrs. H. Sutherland Campbell

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## EDITORIAL

In recommending films for special attention, so much depends on the tastes, interests and mood of the spectator that with each recommendation some explanation is necessary.

The following, which are separately reviewed in this issue, will appeal to various audiences for various reasons and are worthy of patronage.

"The Star Witness"

A socially constructive attempt to crusade against gangsters is presented in a most interesting and entertaining drama.

"Twenty-Four Hours"

Deserves note because the idea is different and the handling is sincere.

"Waterloo Bridge"

A difficult subject is presented artistically.

"Street Scene"

A faithful translation to the screen of a well known play.

"Huckleberry Finn", "Merely Mary Ann", "Sporting Blood",

Are clean, wholesome entertaining films to which the family may go together.

NOTE: "Danger Island" (A Serial) reviewed in the August issue, was mistakenly reported as having been seen throughout. Later reviews report it as very thrilling for children but still above the general level of serial production.

# FEATURE FILMS

### AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY » »

Phillip Holmes, Sylvia Sidney. Direction by Josef Von Sternberg. Paramount-Publix.

Dreiser condemns in his novel a social back-ground and heritage which bewilders and warps its youth. A tremendous volume ill adapted to a pruning which strips it of all its original meditation and psychology, it has become in Von Sternberg's hands a morbid melodrama, uneven, episodic, a courtroom scandal rather than a social problem, provoking false excitement and sensationalism.

The story is written around the episodes in the life of a weak young man, who, running away from his first minor problem, becomes increasingly incapable of meeting life. He seduces a factory worker, Roberta Alden. Later, to rid himself of his obligation, he tips over the boat in which he and Roberta are rowing and swims to shore leaving her to drown. The crime discovered, he is brought to trial, and around this trial, to Drieser's fury, the film largely centers. Sylvia Sidney does a singularly fine piece of acting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

BIG GAMBLE » »

Bill Boyd, Dorothy Sebastian, Warner Oland, James Gleason and Zasu Pitts. Directed by Fred Niblo. R.K.O. Pathe.

The pivot about which the whole plot of this picture revolves, cheating an insurance company, is an unusual though not an admirable theme. The treatment is melodramatic in a style reminiscent of the old ten-twenty-thirty serials. A good cast and a satisfactory ending alleviate the faults of the picture but do not make the whole worth while.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Perhaps*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

BOUGHT » »

Constance Bennett, Ben Lyon, Richard Bennett. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Bros.

Again the beautiful clothes model is falsely lured by riches and then returns to the straight and narrow path in the arms of the poor but honest lover. If you are attracted by Miss Bennett's way of wearing luxurious gowns, if you yearn for lurid melodrama held within the censor's limits, see "Bought" by all means, but leave impressionable and also critical members of the family at home.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No!*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

THE BRAT » »

Sally O'Neil, Allan Rinehart, Frank Albertson, J. Farrell MacDonald. From the play by Maude Fulton. Direction by John Ford. Fox.

A little waif, brought home from a night court by a famous author in order that he may study her as "atmosphere" for his new novel, proves the salvation of the misunderstood and unhappy younger brother. It is an amusing and romantic comedy, with a Cinderella ending, beautifully photographed, well cast and directed, and with an hilarious characterization of the butler by Farrell MacDonald.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE » »

Will Rogers, Jetta Goudal. Direction by David Butler. Adapted from the novel "The Plutocrat" by Booth Tarkington. Fox. (Seen in Preview).

The well known novel gives Mr. Rogers opportunity to present an eccentric and amusing character, and his presence "makes" the picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Wholesome and entertaining*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Yes*

THE COMMON LAW » »

Constance Bennett, Joel McCrea. From the novel by Robert W. Chambers. Direction by Paul Stein. Pathe.

This picture will prove boresome to most audiences because it is trite and hackneyed in theme and treatment. The compensations in beautiful settings and costumes are not great enough to recommend the picture to anyone. It concerns a girl whose past threatens to ruin her future happiness, but her moral lapse is forgiven by her lover, and all ends happily.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

GUILTY HANDS » »

Lionel Barrymore, Madge Evans, Kay Francis, Polly Moran. Direction by W. S. Van Dyke and Lionel Barrymore. M.G.M.

Incensed, when he discovers the intention of a dissolute client to marry his daughter, an eminent lawyer murders the scoundrel. There follows a vivid and absorbing development of gripping situations, dramatic pauses and competing desires. Honor is due Lionel Barrymore for his splendid acting and skillful co-direction, as well as to the unusually good supporting cast. This type of story is suitable only for persons of mature judgment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too mature*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

HIGH STAKES » »

Lowell Sherman, Mae Murray, Edward Martindel, Karen Morley. Direction by Lowell Sherman. R.K.O.

This drama, as trivial as it is unpleasant, concerns itself with that hackneyed theme of an elderly widower who is inveigled into a second marriage by a coy, baby-talking,

young gold-digger. His ultimate rescue from her toils by his younger brother is of the same banality as the rest of the film.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

HUCKLEBERRY FINN » »

Junior Durkin, Jackie Coogan. From the story by Mark Twain. Direction by Norman Taurog. Paramount-Publix.

Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer and a negro slave decide to leave troublesome civilization behind and gypsy down the river on a raft. The charm of a girl who has befriended them and whom they have saved from scheming gamblers changes Huck's opinion of girls, and he decides to return and be the man she wants him to be.

As a picture, "Huckleberry Finn' maintains the same fresh vivid charm of youth which characterized the story. The atmosphere and background of the times are realistically reproduced. The characters are so real that one wonders whether the children are acting or just being themselves; a tribute not only to the juvenile players but to the director whose skill achieved this result. A smooth development, a spirited tempo and a cleanness of feeling are wholly gratifying. The picture is recommended for all.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Excellent* | *Excellent* |

THE IMMORTAL VAGABOND » »

Liane Haid, Gustave Frohlich. Directed by Gustave Ucicky. Talking Picture Epics.

A somewhat old-fashioned and distinctly foreign flavor pervades this German picture, which was filmed in the midst of the magnificent beauty of the Tyrolean mountains. The stereotyped characters of melodramatic romance are all present; the lovely maiden and the poor schoolmaster, unable to marry her until he wins fame and riches from the operetta, which he has written; then the scheming father of the heroine, and the rich, but stolid farmer, whom he forces his daughter to wed during the absence of the hero. By a fortunate quirk of the plot, young love eventually triumphs and everyone is rewarded according to his merits. The costumes and foreign customs give an added charm for an American audience.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *If interested* |

LOST VALLEY » »

Produced by Boy Scouts of America. Presented by Donovan Miller. Distributed by Educational Pictures, Inc.

This is a picture of a group of Boy Scouts on a hiking trip in the mountains. For those interested in this movement, and as an example of the activities and life of the Scouts, this film will prove entertaining, but it is far too amateurish to be considered on its own merits as a dramatic production.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *If interested* | *Yes* |

THE MAGNIFICENT LIE » »

From "Laurels And The Lady" by Leonard Merrick. Ruth Chatterton, Ralph Bellamy. Direction by Berthold Viertel. Paramount-Publix.

A rather unconvincing and disappointing adaptation of Leonard Merrick's "Laurels And The Lady", this picture totally lacks any of the whimsical and subtle charm which characterizes the author's stories. The result is a somewhat incredible narrative with forced situations, which even Miss Chatterton (who over-indulges in hoydenism) and a good cast do not make real. The story involves a shell-shocked American who is deceived into thinking that a young cabaret girl is the French actress with whom he fell in love thirteen years previously. It is sufficiently entertaining not to be boring. Perhaps we anticipate too much.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Too mature to be of interest* | *No* |

MERELY MARY ANN » »

Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, Beryl Mercer. Direction by Henry King. Fox.

Mary Ann, an orphan, is a modern Cinderella slaving in a London boarding house. She adores the music and the person of a struggling young composer (the Fairy Prince). With one stroke of the magic wand, Cinderella is suddenly possessed of wealth. This upsetting of tradition on Cinderella's part changes the Prince's role completely. Her wealth causes a breach between them. It is not until Cinderella becomes a social success and the Prince a composer of the operetta "Mary Ann" that the magic wand makes its final gesture and reunites them.

If "Pollyanna" casts her shadow across the

plot, the romantic charm of story, enchantment of English seaside, beauty of photography, to say nothing of some delicious cockney humor offset any suspicion of the sickly sweet. Beryl Mercer is outstanding in her portrayal of the cockney landlady.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Desirable*
Children, 8 to 12: *Too adult*

MONKEY BUSINESS » »

The four Marx Brothers. Direction by Norman McLeod. Paramount-Publix.

Here is more clowning and wise-cracking in the typical Marx Brothers style. It is a riot of slap-stick nonsense. The "fans" will rock with laughter and others may wonder why they laugh.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Amusing*
Children, 8 to 12: *Amusing but a matter of taste*

PENROD AND SAM » »

First National. From the story by Booth Tarkington. Direction by William Beaudine. Leon Janney, Matt Moore, Zasu Pitts.

The "Penrod Stories" are offered in a new and refreshing form on the screen in a version which retains the humor and flavor of the original product. Booth Tarkington, noted for his amazingly exact observation of the American family, has given to the screen the material for a thoroughly wholesome entertainment wherein the best ideals of American life are the background on which are woven the fun and pathos of American boyhood. Good acting and good direction combine to make this picture a gratifying achievement.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12: *Depends on the child. The pathos is very tense and emotional.*

POLITICS » »

Marie Dresslar, Polly Moran. Direction by Chuck Reisner. M.G.M.

Miss Dresslar again leads one to laugh or cry as she will—and it is her charm and cleverness which makes real entertainment out of a rather simple vehicle. Except for a few interpolations, which tend to illicit vulgar interpretations totally unnecessary to the plot and its intrinsic humor, the picture is light and wholesome entertainment, full of clean, laughter-provoking incidents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12: *Too mature*

THE RECKLESS HOUR » »

Dorothy MacKaill, Conrad Nagel, H. B. Warner. Direction by John Francis Dillon. First National.

The story concerns the misadventures of a beautiful model. It is trite, dull, and mediocre in production in spite of valiant efforts of the cast.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *By no means*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THE RUN AROUND » »

Geoffrey Kerr, Mary Brian, Johnny Hines. Direction by W. J. Craft. R.K.O.

The theme of outwitting a non-marrying man into marriage is here treated in execrable taste. A rich young club man wants Evelyn, a chorus girl, as his mistress, whereas she and her chum plot to frame him into a trip to the altar. Though he discovers this plot, at the insistence of his friends he continues the game in order to have the triumph of saying "No" instead of "Yes" in the marriage ceremony at St. Thomas'. The insult to the clergyman and to the wedding guests seems to have been overlooked both by the characters in the play and by those in authority over the making of the film. Color photography is used throughout.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

SECRETS OF A SECRETARY » »

Claudette Colbert, George Metaxa, Herbert Marshall. Direction by George Abbott. Paramount-Publix.

Another society melodrama bursting with suspense and thrills. The ingredients, a well-groomed and perfumed gigolo, a modern Venus, wealthy, supercilious, rising from a Parisian band-box, the inevitable British title and a shallow superficial plot. The ill-advised daughter of wealth marries hastily, loses her money and her husband, finds a job as secretary, meets the British title, is implicated in a murder, and cleared. It is

well cast and directed but rather poor in synchronization. Mary Boland is outstanding in her characterization.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Not recommended* | Children, 8 to 12 *Unsuitable*

SILENCE » »

Clive Brook, Peggy Shannon, Julia Wray, Marjorie Rambeau. Direction by L. Gasnier and D. Burton. Paramount-Publix.

The old story of an innocent man's accepting the death penalty to protect a loved one, is so well presented by the excellent cast under good direction, that in spite of obvious melodramatic symbolism one is moved by the sense of suspense and dramatic power. Clive Brook does exceptionally good work.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* | Children, 8 to 12 *No*

THE SPIDER » »

Edmund Lowe, Howard Phillips, Lois Moran. Direction by W. C. Menzies. Fox.

Permeated with an atmosphere of mystifying unreality, this thriller is vividly interesting to the end. During the performance of an act in a vaudeville theatre, a murder is committed, the victim of which proves to be the uncle of the assistant to the magician. The rest of the picture is devoted to the efforts of the wizard to unmask the guilty man, which he finally does by novel methods. Many good comedy touches and excellent photography add their share to an entertaining hour and a half.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* | Children, 8 to 12 *Too exciting*

SPORTING BLOOD » »

Clark Gable, Ernest Torrence, Madge Evans, Lew Cody. Direction by Charles Brabin. M.G.M.

The biography of a Kentucky thorobred is the connecting thread among the various incidents of this drama of the race tracks. The races are good exciting entertainment, the story is well told, and the sordid atmosphere of the gambling element is not unduly emphasized. However, the particular merit of the picture is derived from the earlier sequences wherein one sees, intimately, life on an old plantation, whimsical negro stable boys, pickaninnies, frisky colts and beautiful horses against a background of lovely Kentucky country. The whole picture is characterized by exceptional direction and photography.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* | Children, 8 to 12 *Yes, for the horses*

THE STAR WITNESS » »

Walter Huston, Charles "Chic" Sale, Frances Starr, Grant Mitchell, Ralph Ince, Edward Nugent, Dickie Moore. Direction by William A. Wellman. Warner Bros.

We give this picture extra space because we believe that it is particularly deserving of our notice. It presents a very serious problem that is of vital importance to everyone in the United States, and presents it, not as propoganda, but as a well directed, well thought out and splendidly acted photoplay that stands high artistically as well as morally. It is definitely anti-gangster. In all other pictures showing gangster activities, even though criminals have been justly punished in the end, there has been a romantic allure attached to gangster life that could not help having a bad effect on impressionable youths. In showing the dire effects of organized crime on an average American family, this vivid story should rouse even the most complacent and unimaginative citizen to the menace of the increasing power of gangland. There is nothing sentimental in its appeal to fearless honesty and the active kind of patriotism that fights to save America from a destructive force.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* | Children, 8 to 12 *No. Too brutal in parts. Too mature*

THE TAMALE VENDOR » »

Tom Patricola. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational.

This is slapstick of the most ordinary variety, with the old fashioned pie slinging transformed into a tamale battle. Tom Patricola does some remarkable tap dancing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *If they are immature*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No harm*

THIS MODERN AGE » »

Metro Goldwyn Mayer. Direction by Nick Grindel. From a story by Mildred Cram. Joan Crawford, Pauline Frederick, Neil Hamilton.

This is one of those cheap melodramas, dressed up in fine trappings, in which a good cast is badly directed through a morbid and unconvincing story. It concerns a mother and her daughter in a situation in which the mother's extremely unconventional life threatens the happiness of the daughter.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Unsuitable and no interest*

TOO MANY COOKS » »

Bert Wheeler, Dorothy Lee, Robert M. Wade. Directed by William Seiter. R.K.O.

Too many relatives almost spoil this broth. A story of a young couple who try to build the house of their dreams, but are so overwhelmed by interfering advisors, that their romance is almost wrecked. Full of clean, wholesome humor and homely truisms, it can be heartily recommended as a family picture, though it is not the type that young children most enjoy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Harmless*

TRAVELING HUSBANDS » »

Evelyn Brent, Frank Albertson. Direction by Paul Sloane. R.K.O.

A chestnut of the first water, the traveling salesman's story is revived again in "Traveling Husbands". Hotel bedrooms form the background once more for the vulgar antics of husbands en route. To no purpose, we follow an inexperienced young salesman through a series of disreputable parties and a shooting, then finally, into the arms of a disillusioned daughter of the very rich. No amount of fair acting, of which some is present, could redeem such vulgarity and sentimentality.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS » »

Kay Francis, Clive Brook. Direction by Marion Gering. From novel by Louis Bromfield. Paramount.

Sated with New York life as they find it, two social registrants turn to "common clay" to alleviate their discontent. The wife is the first to discover that she has allowed a precious thing to pass, and shows her husband that life may still hold happiness for them. Executed with admirable restraint in acting and direction, this problem drama will appeal to sophisticated and intelligent audiences. It is interesting as a psychological study of what people do in crises in their lives. The behaviour of the characters is logical, probable, and in keeping with modern life and morals.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Questionable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

WATERLOO BRIDGE » »

Mae Clark, Kent Douglas. Direction by James Whale. Universal.

"Waterloo Bridge" maintains a fine integrity of skill and artistry throughout. Another war story with a too familiar theme, it manages with good dialogue, smooth acting and splendid direction, to become a stirring drama. Genuine people, brave emotions are characterized. A young American private of

excellent family falls in love with a street walker. Completely unaware of her trade, he asks her to marry him. She courageously refuses. The play's deep appeal centers in the young girl's anguish as she struggles against her naive and idealistic lover's misplaced faith. Kent Douglas once more creates a role with imagination and distinction.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too sensational*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

THE WOMAN BETWEEN » »

Lily Damita, O. P. Heggie. From the play "Madame Julie" by Irving K. Davis. Direction by Victor Schertzinger. R.K.O.

When a wealthy widower with two grown children marries, in spite of their resentment, a beautiful young woman, who unknowingly proceeds to fall in love with the son, there necessarily must follow a rather wavering morality which makes for confusion even though the ending is acceptable. This picture has a loosely woven slipshod theme in which there seems to be little continuity. Though it remains within the bounds of good taste, beautiful settings and interesting clothes hardly make up for its rather stupid, unpleasant atmosphere and slow tempo.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

WOMEN GO ON FOREVER » »

Clara Kimball Young, Marion Nixon.

Local exhibitors advertized this film as "life in the raw". It takes one into the sordid atmosphere of a cheap New York boarding house where gangsters gather and murders follow in inevitable sequence. A measure of enjoyment may be derived from the character portayal of Miss Young as the matron of the house, a woman of dubious morals combined with a certain humanity and kindness of heart.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

# SHORT SUBJECTS



BATTLING SILVER KINGS » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. Produced by Van Beuren Corp. Pathe.

The thrill and skill of tarpon fishing artistically photographed.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

POISE » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. Produced by Van Beuren Corp. Pathe.

The value and beauty of poise is illustrated by interesting examples from archery, golf, track and field events and casting with rod and line.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

FUN ON ICE » »

Aesop's Fable. Produced by Van Beuren Corp. Pathe.

This cartoon comedy has better music than usual and will entertain the whole family.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

FALLEN EMPIRE » »

Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. Van Beuren Production. Pathe.

This travelogue of Haiti presents with great interest scenes of native life, customs and occupations. It is the more regretable that the accompanying historical data is too colored and too narrow in its interpretation.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

HONEYMOON TRIO » »

Walter Catlett, Dorothy Granger and Al St. John. Directed by William Goodrich. Educational Pictures, Inc.

A comedy which is a little shorter, sillier and stupider than usual.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |



ONE QUIET NIGHT » »

Dorothy Granger, Richard Malaby. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational Pictures, Inc.

An inconsequential picture making a banal and feeble effort to be amusing. This unoriginal thriller is built on the accustomed haunted house formula of clutching hands and looming shadows. A family and its servants remove to a haunted house as a cure-all for the father's violent and unceasing hiccoughs. The gentleman's terrifying experiences, due no doubt to his complete faith in ghosts, break up the habit.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Mildly entertaining* | *Nightmarish* |



UP POPS THE DUKE » »

George Chandler, Pauline Wagner. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational.

A slap stick comedy sketched around a Russian title, false whiskers, player pianos and laughing gas. However, no custard pies. The plot, with a shameless lack of ingenuity, centers in the character of a duke and two different men who try to impersonate him for their own ends. A vapid and rather vulgar attempt to be funny.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Harmless* | *No* |



WHAT A BOZO » »

Charley Chase. Direction by James Parrott. M.G.M.

Charley as an orchestra leader in a night club is attracted by a wealthy female client until a misadventure returns him to the little girl he used to love. It amuses.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Harmless* | *Harmless* |

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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« »

MRS. JOHN VRUWINK, MRS. PALMER COOK } *Co-Chairmen*

MRS. GERARD A. MURRAY *Preview Chairman*

EDITORS

Mrs. J. Allen Davis, Mrs. Palmer Cook, Mrs. F. H. Partridge, Mrs. John Vruwink, Mrs. Margaret Argo, Mrs. Walter Van Dyke

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## FEATURE FILMS

♣

### BAD COMPANY » »

Helen Twelvetrees, Ricardo Cortez. Direction by Tay Garnet. Charles Rogers production. R.K.O.-Pathé.

To call it just one more gangster picture would be an easy way to dismiss this very poor attempt, but since it masquerades in its advertising as a lesson and an earnest effort to point the danger of gang influences, we feel that it deserves more pointed condemnation. The righteous indignation of one repentent gang leader, couched in noble language, does not offset the tremendous glamour attached to the egregious maniac who is the leading character. As entertainment it contains a few thrills, but it is vicious stuff nevertheless.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*

Children, 8 to 12: *No*

### THE BARGAIN » »

Lewis Stone, Doris Kenyon. Direction by Robert Milton. First National.

This picture is the working out of a problem, the conflict between an artist's desire for self-expression and his wish to be fair to his family. Good acting, splendid direction and clever lines, combined with the atmosphere of a delightful home make this production notably worth while. It is to be deplored that there is nothing in the title to distinguish this picture from numerous sordid productions that have born similar names, and also that some of the advertising emphasizes altogether the wrong point of view.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes*

Children, 8 to 12: *Too mature. No interest.*

### THE CISCO KID » »

Warner Baxter, Edmund Lowe, Conchita Montenegro, Nora Lane. Directed by Irving Cummings. Fox.

Those who sufficiently enjoyed "In Old Arizona" may welcome the opportunity of a similar experience at "The Cisco Kid". Here are bandits again, who rob to succor the unfortunate and live by bold and daring acts. Here is red blood mixed with doubtful altruism, but the border line bandit of the 80's and 90's is an historical type which fails to touch present life and morals. When not measured by our standard yard stick the film is pure romance and adventure. The scenes with the children are genuinely refreshing, the Mexican background rich, colorful. Baxter, naturally cast in a romantic mold, is a disturbing and captivating adventurer. If he conducted matinee symphonies, subscriptions would permit subsidies to retire.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Entertaining*

Children, 8 to 12: *Too stimulating*

**DEVOTION** » »

Ann Harding, Leslie Howard. From the story "A Little Flat in the Temple" by Pamela Wynne. Direction by Robert Milton. R.K.O.-Pathé.

A notable cast plays to the best of its ability this rather trivial but diverting comedy. Absurdly disguised as a middle-aged governess, Ann Harding lives in the household of a young and charming lawyer, Leslie Howard, and while thus escaping from a domineering mother and two selfish sisters (see "Cinderella") she charms the fairy prince. That the performance is both entertaining and enjoyable is a great triumph for the art of the actors. It is a delightful family film.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes—very entertaining* | *Amusing in parts* |

**FRIENDS AND LOVERS** » »

Adolphe Menjou, Lily Damita, Laurence Olivier, Erich von Stroheim. Direction by Victor Schertzinger. R.K.O.-Pathé.

This film is an interesting interpretation of the old situation of two loyal friends contending for the love of the same woman. It is dramatically and artistically presented. The men play their roles excellently, and we must thank the director for the unusual merit of leaving something to the imagination of the audience.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Probably uninteresting* | *No interest* |

**GAY DIPLOMAT** » »

Genevieve Tobin, Betty Compson, Ivan Lebedeff. Direction by Richard Boleslavsky. R.K.O.-Pathé.

A young Russian Captain is secretly sent into the enemies' country to capture an elusive woman spy. Around his efforts has been woven a brilliant and subtle story of Court intrigue, always interesting though at times somewhat confused. A flight into the unreality of high-powered diplomacy should prove an exciting and stimulating experience for the average adult audience.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Too involved* |

**GET RICH QUICK WALLINGFORD** » »

William Haines, Ernest Torrence, Leila Hyams. Directed by Sam Woods. M.G.M.

A debonair swindler and his two pals launch a fraudulent stock selling campaign. The farcical intent of the story is so obvious that we may consider it only as a subject for laughter. In similar vein, the hero repents for true love's sake and, marvel of marvels, the fake mine proves to be valuable and everyone makes a fortune. William Haines is most pleasing, and the capable direction adds to the light entertainment.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Doubtful* | *No interest* |

**GRAFT** » »

Regis Toomey, Dorothy Revier, Sue Carol. Direction by Christy Cabanne. Universal Pictures Corp.

Here is more racketeering but no gangster heroes. Precious Victorian sentiment sweetens the plot; villains are righteously defeated and virtue transcends. "Graft" is the story of a cub reporter who somehow blunders his way through to a scoop for his paper, relieves a serious political situation and wins the reform candidate's daughter. The issues of the plot are vague and undefined. Just another thriller, it establishes a tempo which stimulates suspense and excitement and has in spite of a mediocre cast, one or two well acted character parts.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Not recommended* | *No* |

**THE GUARDSMAN** » »

Lynn Fontanne, Alfred Lunt, Roland Young, Zasu Pitts. From the play by Franz Molnar. Direction by Sidney Franklin. M.G.M.

This subtle, clever, amusing comedy of Viennese life is a treatise on flirtation, written by a skilled playwright, and exemplified with consummate art by Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt. To test the faitbfulness of his wife, an actor-husband masquerades as a romantic, love-making guardsman. At the moment of his success, as he accuses her of infidelity, she neatly turns the joke. It will prove very entertaining for sopbisticated adults.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Insidious* | *No interest* |

**HEAVEN ON EARTH** » »

Lew Ayres. Directed by Russell Mack. Universal Pictures Corp.

The misleading title gives no idea of this story of simple and primitive people along the Mississippi. A feud between the men who operate the river boats and the "poor white trash" along its bank, forms the basis for the conflict between the captain of the "Morning Glory" and his adopted son, who learning of his adoption returns to bis own

people, the despised "River rats". Their reconciliation is finally brought about by a terrific storm. The mixture of pathos, violence and heroism will probably stimulate the imagination of older children while the emphasis on the sordid and grotesque may prove too exciting for the younger ones.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Possible*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Better not*

## I LIKE YOUR NERVE » »

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Loretta Young, Henry Kolier. Directed by William McGann. (Preview). First National.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. as the rich young man, who through a series of exciting adventures, learns to make his own decisions, gives a clear and interesting performance. The story moves along at high speed and because of its humor and spontaneity can be recommended without reservation as a picture the whole family will enjoy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Yes*

## LASCA OF THE RIO GRANDE » »

Leo Carrillo, John Mack Brown, Dorothy Burgess, Slim Summerville, Frank Campeau. Direction by Ed Laemmle. Universal.

This dramatic version of Frank Destrez's poem, "Lasca", lends a charming and fascinating role to Dorothy Burgess who appears as a dance hall entertainer in a Texan frontier town. The vacillations of her unrestrained Spanish nature are characteristic, and her devotion to a Texas Ranger, Johnny Mack Brown, culminates in a tragic surprise during a sensational cattle stampede. It is a colorful border romance, extremely entertaining, and presenting a strong though logical climax. Leo Carrillo's excellent portrayal of the rich Portugese cattleman is outstanding.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

## THE LAST COMPANY » »

or (Thirteen Men and a Girl). Conrad Veidt, Karin Evans. Originally produced in German. U.F.A. Talking Pictures Epics.

The German story is of a Prussian captain and twelve men who hold a mill against French opponents in order that their comrades may safely reach an objective. The love of the miller's daughter for the captain is only incidental. A vivid and gripping portrayal of self-sacrifice and heroism, excellently staged and skillfully directed, it is impregnated with the grim details of a morbid and demoralizing situation. The question arises whether patriotism or ardent devotion to their captain prompted the self-sacrifice of the twelve men. Certainly this and similar types of production constitute effective propaganda against warfare.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

## THE LAST FLIGHT » »

Richard Barthelmess, Johnny Mack Brown, Helen Chandler, Elliott Nugent. From the novel "Single Lady" by John Monk Saunders. Direction by Wilhelm Dieterle. First National.

Four aviators, released from a hospital at the end of the war, find themselves incapable of going home to face blundering pity for their injuries and the inevitable anticlimax of their return. They meet "Nikki" by accident and adopt her immediately. The story is concerned thereafter with their adventures in various parts of Europe, their attempts to escape from the "spiritual death" they have already encountered, till in the end, of the five companions, only Nikki and one other survive to face the future with perhaps a ray of hope. A tragic formula this, but its method of telling spreads over the whole a veil of illusive humor. Delicious absurdities cover despair as they play a game of life that is always serious but never to be taken seriously. Perfect direction, good taste and a flawless performance by Helen Chandler characterize this picture. To the literal minded it will have little meaning. There is no thesis to be analyzed or pigeon-holed, but if the spirit of it gets you, it will hold you captive long after you have left the theater.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Beyond their experience*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

## MAD PARADE » »

Evelyn Brent, Lilyan Tashman, Louise Fazenda, Irene Rich. Direction by William Beaudine. Liberty Pictures.

This melodramatic picture of the adventures of a girls' canteen unit with the A. E. F. seems no less than a travesty on the work of American women in France, and in essence gives a false and ridiculous idea of the part women really took in the war. The occasional thrilling moments do not sufficiently relieve the tedium of the constant straining for humorous effects.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

MOTHER AND SON » »

Clara Kimball Young. Direction by J. P. McCarthy. Monogram Pictures Corp.

As the title suggests, the theme of this picture is one of mother love, temporarily unappreciated by the recipient. The plot is trite and somewhat sordid, dealing as it does with the life of a professional woman gambler. Although she gives up this profession for her child, the mother returns to it after the sudden loss of her fortune, in an effort to "recoup" for her son. It is not the type of story which would generally appeal to adult audiences, but the direction and acting assure attention. Miss Young makes her reappearance on the screen after a long absence, and the story takes second place in interest to her interpretation of the leading role.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Of doubtful value*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

MY SIN » »

Tallulah Bankhead, Frederic March. Direction by George Abbott. Paramount-Publix.

Credulity is strained to the breaking point when a young woman, who at the outset is seen as a murderess in a dive in Panama, and the drunken lawyer who befriends her, attain final regeneration and high success in life. With less able and subtle direction the play might easily become cheap and tawdry, but it is worth seeing for the exotic personality of Tallulah Bankhead, the pleasing performance of Frederic March, clear-cut dialogue and perfection of scenic effects.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too emotional*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

NIGHT LIFE IN RENO » »

Virginia Valli, Pat O'Malley, Dorothy Christie, and Carmelita Geraghty. Directed by Raymond Cannon. Art Class.

A vulgar production depicting social life among the divorcees in Reno, Nevada, in which immorality and crime are interwoven. The story is inherently bad, dealing almost entirely with gambling house situations, obscenely intimate repartee, and ultimately murder. The picture is ethically and educationally valueless.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

PERSONAL MAID » »

Nancy Carroll, Gene Raymond, Pat O'Brien. Direction by Monta Bell. Paramount-Publix.

A bit of Irish feminity from the slums, Nora Ryan, longs to become a lady. As personal maid in a shallow, dissolute family of wealth she manages to keep her own sturdiness of character and eventually to exert a fine influence on the son. In spite of a mediocre plot, largely depicting the sophisticated modern trend of high living, the picture is fair entertainment. It has the virtues of good characterization, good sequence and especially of unusually beautiful photography. Karl Friend, the photographer, filmed "The Last Laugh". He is recognized by his craft as premier camera man of the Old World. The best shots are taken on the train.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too sophisticated*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

THE PHANTOM OF PARIS » »

John Gilbert, Leila Hyams, Lewis Stone, Natalie Moorhead, Jean Hersholt. From the story, "Cheri Bibi", by Gaston Leroux. Direction by John Robertson. M.G.M.

An interesting melodramatic treatment of the escapades of a "disappearing artist", who, by clever impersonation, utilizes his talents in the uncovering of a murder. There is a love story involved around which the theme is constructed. By clever direction, and good photography, a fantastic and highly improbable narrative has been satisfactorily developed. This Parisian story is well cast, though John Gilbert is not deceptive in his character role of the Marquis.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

PLEASURE » »

Conway Tearle, Carmel Myers, Frances Dade, Paul Page. Supreme Pictures Ltd.

This is an amateurish and uninteresting picture in which an unhappily married author finds the true meaning of love and succeeds in getting rid of his unloving wife. Its shallowness and artificiality are reminiscent of the earliest movie days.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

**RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE** » »

George O'Brien, Marguerite Churchill, Noah Beery. Direction by Hamilton MacFadden. Fox.

Zane Gray's novel and the film have little more in common than the title. A Western, very badly directed and handicapped by dull dialogue, with miscast and stilted actors, does well to have one "quick trick" — its photography. The out of door shots show throughout a fine panorama of beautiful country. It is a romance of pioneering days in Arizona with a hero from Texas and a band of pillaging men, whom he thwarts. A picture of action which shows hard riding, cattle stampeding and shooting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Harmless*

Children, 8 to 12 *No. Too complicated*

**SIDE SHOW** » »

Winnie Lightner, Charles Butterworth, Evelyn Knapp, Donald Cook. Direction by Roy Del Ruth. Warner Brothers.

Two sisters fall in love with a worthless barker of a side show. Although the younger, proving disloyal, runs away with him, an ending is effected which is satisfactory to all. The story flounders around between comedy and drama and gives scant opportunity for the ability of so true a comedienne as Winnie Lightner. It is weak in dialogue, plot and general conception, and while it is passable morally, the inexcusable emphasis of one vulgar song cheapens the whole.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Waste of time*

Children, 8 to 12 *No*

**SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK** » »

Buster Keaton, Anita Page, Cliff Edwards. Direction by Zion Myers and Jules White. M.G.M.

This slap stick comedy with an undercurrent of serious intent is well stocked with amusing episodes and original gags. Harman, a wealthy young New Yorker, falls in love with a girl in the slums. To give a wholesome outlet to the street gang to which she and her brother belong, he builds a gymnasium for them. The struggle to win them over to a real interest in the project creates a series of near tragedies and a score of comic situations. It is indicated throughout the comedy how gang spirit can be turned to good account. This is in strange contrast with the hero worshipping of gangsters, developed in too many recent films. Cliff Edwards puts over his lines with a humor and style peculiarly his own.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Probably entertaining*

Children, 8 to 12 *Too boisterous*

**SKYLINE** » »

Thomas Meighan, Hardie Albright, Maureen O'Sullivan. Direction by Sam Taylor. Fox.

If there be those to whom the element of coincidence seems invoked beyond credibility, there will be many more to enjoy the vivid story of a barge-waif's ambition to become a builder of New York skyscrapers. Parental and filial devotion, young love, tense situations relieved with humor, breath-taking scenes on lofty girders, good acting and direction, all together make a film of more than average interest.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes*

Children, 8 to 12 *If interested*

**SMART WOMAN** » »

Mary Astor, Robert Ames, Edward Everett Horton. Direction by Gregory La Cava. R.K.O.

This rather sophisticated comedy is cleverly handled throughout. A young wife, returning from a duty trip to Europe, outwits the designing blonde who has ensnared her husband, using the method of too close observation at a house party. Spontaneous dialogue and the inimitable humor of Edward Everett Horton add to the many good points of the play.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Too mature*

Children, 8 to 12 *No*

**SOB SISTER** » »

James Dunn, Linda Watkins. Direction by Alfred Santell. Fox.

Sob Sister is a colorful and unusual account of newspaper life, swift in action, clever and sarcastic in repartee, consistent with the characters involved. Jane and Garry, reporters on two rival papers, are constantly pitted against each other to obtain the first account of every crime. Even love is superseded by professional jealousy, but when Jane's life is at stake, the deeper emotion proves triumphant.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Better not*

Children, 8 to 12 *No*

THE SQUAW MAN » »

Warner Baxter, Lupe Velez, Eleanor Boardman, Charles Bickford, Roland Young, Paul Cavanagh. Direction by C. B. DeMille. M.G.M.

Skillfully directed and perfectly cast, this old melodrama so well known to everyone, has a fresh and poignant appeal. The settings are beautiful and the tragically moving portrayal of the love between Jim and his squaw wife strikes a note of sincerity and idealism which should appeal to all ages.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Good* — Children, 8 to 12: *Possibly*

STREET SCENE » »

Sylvia Sydney, Estelle Taylor, William Collier, Jr., Beulah Bordi, Matt McHugh. Direction by King Vidor. Adapted from the stage play by Elmer Rice. United Artists.

This is a sincere and successful effort to transpose a stage play to the screen. It concerns the dramatic and moving events of one day in a New York tenement, told as the characters meet and pass on the door step. The tragedy of a wife, starved for affection and kindness, contrasts with the background of gossip and humor, and the normal every day life of a crowded tenement. It is stark realism, tragic and affecting. The acting of Sylvia Sydney, Matt McHugh, and Beulah Bordi is especially fine, the drama is interesting and the direction and photography exceptional. The production is well worth seeing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Questionable; very mature and tragic* — Children, 8 to 12: *No. Unsuitable*

THE TIP OFF » »

Eddie Quillan, Robert Armstrong, Ginger Rogers. Direction by Al Rogell. Paramount.

From an unusual beginning the plot drifts into the routine of shooting and slugging which marks the gang picture. Eddie Quillan's humor lightens the effect, but there are questionable if not actually demoralizing situations which make the play impossible to recommend.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THE WHITE DEVIL » »

Ivan Mosjoukine, Lil Dagover. (Ufa) Talking Picture Epics.

This is an adaptation of a story by Tolstoi in the heroic vein. It concerns Hadschi Murat who leads his people of the Caucasus in their fight to preserve independence from Russia. There is a certain air of unreality. It remains a story to the end, and the tempo is retarded. However to offset these faults there are many excellencies which we do not often find in American productions. There is restraint in acting, perfection of detail in costuming, fine singing, unusually beautiful photography—a brooding loveliness over it all.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Rather mature* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

WICKED » »

Elissa Landi, Irene Rich, Victor McLaglen. Direction by Allen Dwan. Fox.

This social problem film remains indubitably thought-provoking, in spite of exaggerations and somewhat confused moral issues. It is a harrowing, even agonizing, story of an expectant mother sent to prison by an apparently unjust decision. The birth of her child, her life in the prison (attractive beyond the fondest hopes of the Wickersham commission), her early release through the efforts of an erstwhile sweetheart, and her subsequent frantic efforts to regain the child from its adoptive parents constitute the network of the plot. Miss Landi's acting makes the role vital and convincing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Too mature* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

# SHORT SUBJECTS



BLUE RHYTHM » »

Columbia Pictures Inc.

This caricatures an orchestra, the animals substituting for human beings. This should appeal to children and those who enjoy "blue" music. Good fun.

CALLING ON CAIRO » »

(One reel). Talking Pictures Epics, Inc.

The film presents an instructive and interesting visit to the city of Cairo. Excellent photography and well selected subject-matter make the reel very entertaining for any audience.

CAT'S NIGHTMARE » »

Silly Symphony. Columbia.

A wild tale of the cat's adventures with various animals he meets during a night away from home. A Hallowe'en, spooky atmosphere is so well done that it might frighten a sensitive child.

DUTCH TREAT » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

A good sketch of Holland, portraying the quiet and peace of the quaint little country which still clings to many of its centuries-old customs.

EGYPTIAN MELODIES » »

Silly Symphony. Produced by Walter Disney Studio. Columbia Pictures.

An Egyptian frieze on the walls of an underground temple comes to life, and the mummies dance to delightful music. Unusual and amusing for everyone.

FLYING HIGH » »

Aesop Fable. R.K.O.-Pathé.

A diverting Aesop fable on the spider and fly theme, with the most engaging popular music and singing woven into the plot. The synchronization is extraordinarly good and the little performance ingenious and clever enough to be highly entertaining. Recommended to all.

FISHIN' AROUND » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Columbia.

Mickey Mouse and a dog go fishing, with the fish as the victors in the battle.

GHOST TOWN » »

(One reel). Talking Pictures Epics, Inc.

Deserted gold mining towns of Nevada are shown accompanied by an interesting and well expressed descriptive talk. The photography is beautiful and effective. Interesting for all audiences.

HELL BELOW ZERO » »

(3 reels). Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

In this unique picture we are taken to the Mountains of the Moon in Equatorial Africa by Carveth Wells, explorer, whose explanations are clever and clear. Strange vegetation of prehistoric nature is shown growing there: natives and wild animals are photographed with unusual skill and understanding. The title is catch-penny and misleading, perhaps, but this travelogue is exceptional.

IN A CLOCK SHOP » »

Columbia Pictures Inc.

A completely captivating bit of artistry, this picture presents clocks of many types and periods. They come to life, indulge in various antics from prize-fighting to a dainty minuet.

THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

An ancient Italian village is presented with its queer stone huts that have stood for centuries, with relics of primitive customs, and hand craft. Beautifully photographed and arranged, it possesses interest and charm for all ages.

LOVE IN A POND » »

Aesop Fable. Pathé Exchange Inc.

A light and amusing animated cartoon in which the musical accompaniment and rhymical action are especially pleasing. Good entertainment for all ages.

MICKEY STEPS OUT » »

Columbia Pictures Inc.

Moderately entertaining misadventures ensue when Mickey calls on Minnie, and his dog pursues her cat. A few vulgarities might be dispensed with.

**THE MYSTERY IN COMPARTMENT C** » »

Nick Harris series. Direction by Chester Bennett. Produced by Chester Bennett.

After escaping an attempt at blackmail, Mr. Bruce is murdered in a train compartment. A detective, by clever work, eliminates various suspects until at last he finds the guilty man. This film is fairly well done and is comparable in intent and appeal to the detective magazine short story. Adolescents might enjoy it. It is too stimulating for younger children.

**NAVAJO WITCH** » »

(One reel). Talking Pictures Epics, Inc.

An unusually interesting and entertaining film showing the present home life from infancy to old age of Navajo Indians on the Painted Desert. Even young children will enjoy this delightful reel.

**OLYMPIC TALENTS** » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. Produced by Van Beuren Corporation. Pathé.

A comparison of men and women champions in track and field events, showing many promising aspirants to the Olympic Games.

**YOUNGER YEARS** » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. Produced by Van Beuren Corporation. Pathé.

Clever episodes in the athletic life of small boys.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

**PIGSKIN PROGRESS** » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. Pathé.

A Grantland Rice rather badly recorded, giving a short history of football from old soccer days through the Princeton Rutgers game of 1869 (where present day students re-enact the game) then through the 90's, and on up to present times. Rice illustrates his talk throughout, and slow motion, occasionally introduced, adds considerably to the interest of the film. Of mild general interest to a football minded public but largely recommended for small boys playing football.

**POMPEII** » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

Ever-fascinating Pompeii is shown with its overshadowing volcano. The views of the houses and shops are taken with regard to artistic values. Many utensils and small objects from the excavations add to the general interest.

**QUEENIE OF HOLLYWOOD** » »

Virginia Brooks, Rita Flynn, Jean Reno. Direction by William Goodrich. Educational Comedies, Inc.

Three girls, accompanied by the dog Queenie, are mistaken for royalty, whereupon many complications ensue. Harmless, somewhat amusing. Fair entertainment for its type.

**SINGING WATERS** » »

Description by F. B. Riley. Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

A most charming illustrated presentation of a trip up the Columbia river highway, in which each succeeding scene is a delight and surprise. The description by Mr. Riley is beautifully appropriate to the subject.

**TOP THE OLD WORLD** » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

This bird's eye view of Norway with its rugged, snowy mountains, fjords, and waterfalls, ranks high in educational and artistic value for all. The speaker has a very pronounced accent which occasionally makes the descriptions difficult to understand.

**TORCHY** » »

From The Torchy series of Sewall Ford. Ray Cooke, Dorothy Dix, Franklin Pangborn, Harry Myers. Educational Pictures, Inc.

"Torchy" is the American business man viewed as a striving youngster, who outwits all competitors and marries the boss' daughter. Played in rapid tempo, the crude efforts of a very likeable young aspirant to power are diverting and lightly amusing. Recommended for the family.

**TROPIC LURE** » »

Talking Picture Epics, Inc.

Sketches of Guatemala, Jamaica and Havana become somewhat confused, as they are contrasted with our modern cities. Explanations are inadequate, and while there are some fine views the film is disappointing.

**UTMOST ISLE** » »

Vagabond Adventure. Pathé.

Remote and lovely Ceylon is richly photographed from its water fronts to its mountains, exhibiting native customs and supersitions, recording music and dancing. The dancing is curiously unrythmical to our western taste. Recommended for the family.

—o—

**WOODROW WILSON'S GREAT DECISION**

One of a series: Floyd Gibbons "Supreme Thrills". Pathé Exchange, Inc.

A brief review of President Wilson's administration from the time he made the "great decision" to have America enter the war, until his death, showing the high light of events without attempting to interpret the policies he followed. It is a very graphic historical record of particular interest to adult audiences. The pictures of course contrast technically with more modern photography, but the subject matter is valuable. Children under 10 might find the picture tiresome.

# SERIALS

**BATTLING WITH BUFFALO BILL** » »

Tom Tyler, Lucille Brown, William Desmond. Direction by Ray Taylor. Adapted from "The Great West That Was" by William Cody. Universal Serial. 12 episodes. (Reported by the California Motion Picture Council.)

Based on episodes in the life of William Cody, best known as "Buffalo Bill", beloved hero of romantic adventure, this story concerns chiefly the attempt of a greedy town marshall to prevent the arrival of a wagon train carrying a stamp mill into a gold rush community. The Indians are incited to warfare and Buffalo Bill brings order and harmony again. The serial is reported as one of the best to date. There is variety of incident, clarity and plausibility to the story, and real beauty and interest in the scenes of the life of the settlers and Indians. The action is stirring, a characteristic of this type of picture, but it is generally not harrowing and the cast is well chosen. It should prove very entertaining for older children and is approved as suitable for Junior Matinees.

**KING OF THE WILD** » »

Serial. Walter Miller, Tom Sanchi, Dorothy Christy. Direction by Nat Levine. 12 chapters complete.

Suggested apparently by the vogue for "Trader Horn", the setting of these adventures is the African jungle. A man accused of murder escapes, and is hunted through amazing perils on land and water, surrounded by every wild animal known, and every type of savage. It is an unlovely presentation of exciting experiences unrelated to probability. Its enjoyment must be entirely a matter of taste. Though passable of its type such a presentation is not the best children's entertainment in spite of the evident appreciation of certain youthful movie habitues.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Hardly* | *Not recommended* |

**THE VANISHING LEGION** » »

Harry Carey, Edwina Booth, Frankie Darrow. "Sex". Direction by Reaves Eason. All Star serial. 12 episodes. (Reported by the California Motion Picture Council.)

The story, confusing in detail and action, portrays the activities of a band of riders who prevent unjust exploitation of an oil field, while the original owner's name is being cleared of a charge of murder. The film is magnificently photographed and opening chapters are interesting both scenically, and in well directed action. Unfortunately, it then degenerates into a jumble of repeated scenes, viscious ethics, and cruelty which cannot interest adults and is demoralizing for children. It is too exciting and terrifying for Junior Matinees.

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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« »

MRS. PALMER COOK, *Chairman* — MRS. GERARD A. MURRAY, *Preview Chairman*

EDITORS

MRS. J. ALLEN DAVIS, MRS. ARTHUR JONES, MRS. WALTER VAN DYKE, MRS. PALMER COOK, MRS. F. H. PARTRIDGE

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## FEATURE FILMS

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### AMBASSADOR BILL » »

Will Rogers, Marguerite Churchill, Greta Nissen, Tad Alexander, Ray Milland, Gustav von Seyfertitz, Arnold Korff, Ferdinand Munier, Edwin Maxwell, Ernest Wood, Tom Ricketts. Fox.

Will Rogers as Ambassador to a small principality of the Graustark order (suggesting Roumania and its royal family) proceeds in the uncouth western way which his other films have made familiar, to hob nob with royalty while straightening out domestic and political tangles. He teaches the serious boy king to play baseball and other games like a regular American lad, and in so doing has an opportunity of displaying his marvelous skill with a lariat. There is plenty of humor though not the subtle and hilarious fun we have learned to expect. Nevertheless it is good wholesome entertainment for everybody, appealing especially to adolescents and children. While it is not in any sense great drama, there is plenty of action including a revolution with plots and counter plots. The excellent cast does good work but is limited in opportunity. Direction is eminently satisfactory. You will be sorry if you miss it.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12 *Yes*

### ARE THESE OUR CHILDREN? » »

Eric Lindon, Arline Judge, Beryl Mercer. Direction by Wesley Ruggles. R.K.O.

The story of a high school boy who allows his disappointment over losing the oratorical contest so to embitter him that he turns to vicious companionship and finally wrecks his life. The picture is a sordid story of crime, too harrowing to be entertaining and not sufficiently balanced morally to be constructive. There may be spectators who will think it a strong object lesson warning parents against the modern dangers which surround and tempt boys and girls. But it is our opinion that the "hero" is a pathalogical case. No hint of the deep underlying influences responsible for his complete moral breakdown is given, and the absolute change in his character is too radical to seem believable or possible. His experiences are therefore to be classed among the inevitable "cases" which come eventually into the hands of the law. There is no suggestion for parents dealing with normal children, and no hope that character building in the home will help a child exposed to disappointment and temptation. Thus the picture means little to the average adult. Young people of the type who enjoy sensational and morbid fare will feel that the final penalty in this case was

exceptional and reject any application of a "lesson". Mechanically the production is excellent but its basic artificiality takes from the interest, and the story certainly is not entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not advised!*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

THE BELOVED BACHELOR » »

Paul Lukas, Dorothy Jordan. Adapted from the play, by Edward Peple. Direction by Lloyd Corrigan. Paramount-Publix.

A theme which is not especially original is treated in a fresh and sprightly manner and becomes pleasant entertainment. Paul, a charming bachelor artist, adopts the small daughter of his model, who has been killed, and in order to circumvent a city regulation claims her as his own offspring. He thereby loses his fiancee, who never learns the truth until twelve years later, when the foster child has acquired sufficient age and grace to offer real competition. The interpolation of drinking seems unnecessary, as Charlie Ruggles, who plays one of the artist's friends, can be funny without stimulants. As a whole, the play is in good taste. There are charming scenic effects, the direction is smooth, the story is plausible. It is recommended as a family picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Very little interest but unobjectionable*

CONSOLATION MARRIAGE » »

Irene Dunne, Pat O'Brien, John Halliday, Mat Moore, Lester Vail, Myrna Loy. Direction by Paul Sloane. R.K.O.

This is a social comedy with a pleasing cast and unusually good dialogue. With the exception of a superfluous drinking scene near the beginning, the tone is wholesome. The story moves smoothly and logically to its conclusion. As the title suggests, a jilted man and a jilted girl console each other in a marriage for companionship. The working out of this arrangement makes an interesting plot.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Possible*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

CUBAN LOVE SONG » »

Lawrence Tibbitt, Lupe Velez, Ernest Torrence, Karen Morley. Direction W. S. Van Dyke. M.G.M.

"Marine" Tibbitt's excellent vocal qualities bring a beautiful Cuban lady vendor of peanuts into his arms. But alas, not to stay! He is called to war. After nine years, the romantic strains of the "Peanut Vendor Song" lead him once more to Cuba only to find the grave of his sweetheart and the nine year old son she has left him. This romantic tale of love and adventure is splendidly acted. Tibbitt sings well while Lupez Velez's fire and pathos make the romantic scenes understandable. But, all considered it is a little too vivid and robust for the best interests of our children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

COUGAR, OR CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN LION » »

Jay C. Bruce, State hunter; Ranger and pack of trained hunting dogs. Produced by Sidney A. Stone. Silent film with accompanying descriptive talk.

This picture deserves special recommendation for its interest and instructive value. It tells the story of the state fight against the deadly mountain lion, showing incidental scenes of other wild animal life with the natural beauties of California as background. It will appeal to all audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Excellent*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Excellent*

DREYFUS CASE » »

Cedric Hardwicke, Beatrix Thomson, Sam Livesay. Directed by F. W. Kramer. Columbia.

Any happening that created a world wide sensation as did the Dreyfus case carries special interest for those who remember the bitter discussion that echoed through our own country. The picture purports to be the true story of Captain Dreyfus and his family. Both the historical and biographical material will appeal to a certain type of audience. The dramatization though vital and artistic is somewhat ponderous, and the play is heavy and slow because of the necessary intricacies of the plot. However the sympathy roused in reality by the unjust conviction of Captain Dreyfus is reawakened in the pictured por-

trayal of his trial, and the whole production gives an impression of reality which is augmented by the excellent acting of the English cast.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good, though mature*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

FANNY FOLEY HERSELF » »

Story by Juliet Wilbur Tompkins. Edna May Oliver, Hobart Bosworth, Florence Roberts, Rochelle Hudson and Helen Chandler. Direction by Melville Brown. R.K.O.

The contrasts of vaudeville and high society life form the amusing background against which this witty comedy evolves. Dismayed by the shocked disapproval of her two daughters when they see her act, a comedy queen yields to the insistence of her millionaire father in law, and accompanies the girls to his country estate where they are to be educated under his watchful care. With wit and humor the discords are finally changed to mutual respect by the sympathetic understanding of life which this wise, though unconventional woman brings to bear on her tangled family. Miss Oliver is excellent and is ably abetted by the director and cast.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Slight interest*

FIVE STAR FINAL » »

Edward G. Robinson. From the play by Louis Weitzenkorn. Direction by Mervin LeRoy. First National.

The ruthlessness of yellow journalism, pandering to sensationalism regardless of individual suffering, is made into stirring melodrama by the excellent direction of Mr. LeRoy and a well chosen and very competent cast. It is the type of story which needed careful direction to hold conviction. Raw newspaper tactics with their wide resulting ramifications are aptly portrayed. While it is recommended for adults who are interested in such problems, it is cruel and cynical for youthful audiences, in spite of its truthfulness.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Possible but probably would not appeal*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

FLYING HIGH » »

Charlotte Greenwood, Pat O'Brien. Direction Charles Reisner. M.G.M.

A good cast is wasted in this musical comedy which is marked chiefly by its course vulgarity. The director apparently seized every opportunity to wallow in suggestiveness.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

FREIGHTERS OF DESTINY » »

Tom Keene, Barbara Kent. Direction by Fred Allen. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This is a play which one recommends primarily for juniors, subsequently for adults who do not insist upon too realistic fare, a "Western" based upon the business of freighting by team into isolated towns with the attendant dangers, struggles and romance. The backgrounds are beautiful. Snowy Sierras glimmer in the distance, and the sound of rushing water is a joy to the ear. Of exceptional interest is the horsemanship, and the hero's horse is worthy of mention as one of the cast.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Entertaining*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Good*

GIRLS ABOUT TOWN » »

Kay Francis, Lilyan Tashman, Allan Dinehart, Joel McCrea, Eugene Pallette. Direction by George Cukor. Paramount-Publix.

Again the hackneyed story, whitewashing the gold digging "party girls" who supposedly keep their finer instincts amidst luxurious surroundings, jewels, ermine wraps and negligees. This play is smartly done after the manner of "The Greeks Had a Word For It." Some women will undoubtedly take a certain feline satisfaction in seeing reversed the sentimental truism of the "gay 90's" that "it's always the woman who pays." However, it would take rather an unknowing audience not to perceive that its implications are beyond the pale morally and that it skirts impropriety by a hairs breadth.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

HEART BREAK » »

Charles Farrell, Hardie Albright, Madge Evans. Direction by Alfred Weiker. Fox.

Once more we are shown the tragedy of war bursting into the midst of romance and charm. This time a young American at the Viennese Embassy falls in love with an Austrian Countess. War is declared and the American, having joined his country's air

forces, kills the Countess' brother in combat. After the complications of heart breaks and misunderstandings, all ends well. The undercurrent motif of the drama is the emotional conflict resulting from the necessity of trying to hate those whom it may be more natural to love. War scenes are few while there are many delightful pictures and glamorous settings. Negligible as a play, the production is yet good entertainment for family audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Good*
Children, 8 to 12: *Probably beyond their understanding*

THE HOMICIDE SQUAD » »

Leo Carrillo, Mary Brian, Noah Beery, Russell Gleason. Direction by Carl Laemmle Jr. Universal.

Amid the old ingredients of the gangster story, we find an attempt to preach that the ways of law and order are more desirable in the end, and there is also some effort made to draw our sympathy towards the police. However, in spite of the good cast, the picture has no particular merit. The underworld with all its too familiar ramifications is seldom acceptable material for the entertainment of discriminating adults and it is pernicious for youths.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

JUVENILE COURT » »

Junior Durkin, Pat O'Brien. Direction and story by Howard Higgin. Screen play and dialogue by Paul Gangelin. Tech Art Studio. B. F. Ziedman.

In reviewing this picture a specially invited group of authorities on social service work for children collaborated with the regular previewers. They were unanimous in pronouncing the production a notable achievement, and the title a misnomer. The story is of a boy who, through innocence and hero worship gets in to trouble with the police. His loyalty to the older man who has mislead him prevents the boy from giving information that would have exonerated him. He is sentenced by the Juvenile Court to three years in a reform school. Here the findings of the Wickersham Commission furnish the material for an exposé of the frightful methods used in some penal institutions; and the baffling opposition offered by political appointees to all progress or improvement. In spite of the element of propaganda the story is gripping. It is not entertainment in the sense of being amusing, but it is a beautifully acted human drama directed with admirable restraint and with strict regard for good taste and accuracy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12: *Disorganizing*

ONCE A LADY » »

Ruth Chatterton, Geoffrey Kerr. Direction by Guthrie McClintic. Paramount-Publix.

Ruth Chatterton is the drawing card to this play because of her splendid characterization of an impulsive and emotional Russian girl. The conflict between this girl and the severely conventional English family into which she has married forms the basis of the plot which is carried over from the first to the second generation when, Ruth Chatterton as the mother reappears from obscurity to aid her daughter in a crisis. The picture possesses a strong emotional appeal but falls short of being a really fine dramatic achievement because of its slow pace and weak spots in the direction. Frankly sophisticated, often sordid, and depicting, though with a delicate touch, the life of a courtesan, it is strictly for adult entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Unsuitable*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

OVER THE HILL » »

Mae Marsh, James Dunn, Sally Eilers, James Kirkwood. Direction by Henry King. Fox.

Mae Marsh and a really satisfying cast play this simple, homely story of mother-love most naturally and poignantly. Universally touching is the heart gripping problem of an old mother, who after raising her four children by heroic self sacrifice, is faced with the choice of going "over the hill" to the poor house, or living as an unwanted burden in her children's homes. The moral lesson is pointed unmistakably, though occasionally at the expense of the entertainment. Handkerchiefs will be needed by the tender hearted.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12: *Too emotional*

THE PAGAN LADY » »

Evelyn Brent, Lucile Gleason, Charles Bickford, Conrad Nagel, William Farnum. Direction by John Francis Dillon. Columbia.

The ingredients of this melodrama are Havana, a saloon, a female bar-keeper, a

rum runner, a fight, love in a boarding house, a fanatical preacher and his handsome nephew, love on a desert island. The whole is mixed well with a good cast but is not worth saving even for a rainy day.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

PALMY DAYS » »

Eddie Cantor, Charlotte Greenwood. Directed by Eddie Sutherland. United Artists.

Laughs and good music carry "Palmy Days" to success. A true musical comedy with elaborate settings, it is one of the few that leaves one enthused, amused, and eager for more of the same kind. Eddie Cantor, as the assistant to a fake fortune teller, literally falls into the position of efficiency expert in a very modern bakery where Charlotte Greenwood holds the post of physical training instructor. The comedy is well cast and ideally directed with the speed and zip that such a musical show needs. The songs are good, the laughs continuous, and while it is strictly a stage show on the screen, it is excellent entertainment for any type of audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Excellent* Children, 8 to 12 *Good*

RICH MAN'S FOLLY » »

George Bancroft, Robert Ames, Frances Dee. Trem Carr Production. Cooperative Film Exchange.

This film play, a modern Americanized version of "Domby and Son", strikes a note of sincerity in plot, acting and direction. Something of the Dickens manner of depicting tragic lives and emotions is preserved and helps to fashion a cinema story which has many claims to distinction. In this version of Dickens' well known novel, wherein even the names of the characters are changed, a father is obsessed by the desire for his son to carry on the family business of shipbuilding. In his fanatic resolution he drives his frail boy to an untimely death and temporarily alienates his daughter. Though at moments the dialogue is incongruous and the tempo lags, the acting, particularly that of the children, is excellent and the production is both artistic and interesting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Good* Children, 8 to 12 *Tragic and heavy*

THE ROAD TO RENO » »

Charles Rogers, Peggy Shannon, Tom Douglas, Lilyan Tashman. Directed by Richard Wallace. Paramount-Publix.

A thoughtless searcher for thrills and novelty seeks her fourth divorce, thereby dragging her children through humilating and devastating experiences. It is a sad portrayal of a phase of American life showing the failure of easy divorce to attain the desired end of happiness. The play is one of the flashier variety, well acted and deftly directed, but possibly demoralizing in its effect on unanalytical youth. While a lesson is definitely pointed at the end, it invests Reno and all it stands for with a far greater glamour than it actually possesses, thus falsifying with glittering trappings a sordid reality.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

THE ROAD TO SINGAPORE » »

William Powell, Doris Kenyon, Louis Colhern. Direction by Alfred Green. Warner Bros.

Disillusioned by her marriage to a doctor, who is entirely immersed in operations, Phillipa turns to Hugh Dawltry, socially ostracized in the far east for his reputation as a roué and home wrecker. After one dance, a few horseback rides, and a clandestine dinner, she decides to elope to Singapore with him, and discard her former conventional life, her reputation, and future security. The successful illusion of hot weather in Singapore does not attone for the shortcomings of the picture, and there is little to recommend it as entertainment. The story is lacking in plausibility, and the action is slow. It is not a vehicle worthy of William Powell's talent.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

THE RULING VOICE » »

Walter Huston, Loretta Young, Doris Kenyon, Dudley Diggs. Direction Rowland V. Lee. First National.

Here is an underworld picture which one might safely recommend for adults who enjoy films based on crook themes. Walter Huston does a good piece of acting in his role of master racketeer. For youthful audiences, however, the picture is not recommended. The charm and finish of Huston's acting invest the role with glamour and draw sympathy towards what should be an abhorent practice. The very excellencies of the pro-

duction make it all the more menacing in its possible influence on the ethical standards of susceptible minds.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

SECRET SERVICE » »

Richard Dix, Shirley Grey. Adapted from play by William Gillette. Direction by J. Walter Ruben. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This romance of Civil War days should appeal to juniors and to grown people who love romance and stirring adventure. Reminiscent of the charming stories of Thomas Nelson Page, the old South is evoked with its traditional hospitality and charm. Two brothers of the Union Army are sent on a desperate mission into Confederate territory; one falls in love with a beautiful Southern girl. With high romance, pathos, swift action, glory of conflict and yet none of the horror of World War films, it is very entertaining for family audiences.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Good* | *Mature but unobjectionable* |

THE SIN OF MADELON CLAUDET » »

From the play "Lullaby" by Edward Knoblock. Helen Hayes, Lewis Stone, Neil Hamilton. Direction by Edgar Eelwyn. M.G.M.

Sacrifice and renunciation furnish the main theme of this haunting tragedy of mother love. Never revealing her identity throughout long years of poverty and suffering, Madelon supports her son and enables him to become a famous physician. Probably the sombre pathos of this story would prove too strong for the average child, but its poignancy and the skillful delicacy of characterization will long be remembered by a discriminating adult audience.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Possible, but very tragic* | *No* |

THE SPIRIT OF NOTRE DAME » »

Lew Ayres, William Bakewell, J. Farrell MacDonald. Direction by Russell Mack. Universal.

This is a splendid football picture emphasizing the importance of team work and sportsmanship. It presents in particular the story of the blocking half-back who does the lion's share of the work while the ball carrier receive all the applause. The cast is excellent and succeeds with the help of natural, spontaneous dialogue to present an unusually real and delightful picture of college life. The picture is full of laughs, thrills and well done pathos. The football shots are exceptionally fine, and it is a picture that ought to please anyone interested in the game. It is especially recommended for children of all ages.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Excellent* | *Excellent* |

SUNDOWN TRAIL » »

Tom Keene, Marion Shilling. Direction by Robert F. Hill. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This is just another Western, of more appeal to juniors than to adults, but leaving a pleasant impression of swift movement and beautiful scenery. The story concerns a rancher's daughter, educated in the East, who inherits the ranch. Her foreman saves her from endless disasters and fights the whole countryside to win her.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Passable* | *Exciting but entertaining* |

SUSAN LENNOX » »

Greta Garbo, Clark Gable, Jean Hersholt. Adapted from the novel by David Graham Phillips. Direction by Robert Leonard. M.G.M.

From the beautiful and dramatically effective, opening scene, to the very end, this picture is a succession of triumphs for the directorial skill of Robert Leonard, and the infinitely elusive, but pervading charm of Greta Garbo. Because of the artistic values of the picture, an improbable and sordid story is accepted and seems vital and rich with emotional depth. Without such artistic realization, it would be but one more version of the poor young girl, erring through force of circumstances, and struggling on through adventure after adventure, in the hope of finding a permanent haven. Dramatic implications are startlingly enhanced by the marvellously photographed backgrounds.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No, unsuitable* | *Too mature* |

TWO FISTED JUSTICE » »

Tom Tyler, Barbara Weeks. Direction by G. A. Durlam. Cooperative Exchange.

The action of this story is supposed to take place during the days of the Civil War when a self appointed group of rough riders were stationed at a frontier town in Kentucky to

establish law and order. While many so called "Westerns" lack the smoothness of direction, acting and supervision of other films, they are often accepted, especially by juvenile audiences, because of the romantically heroic characters and vivid action. But this one does not entertain. The story is inconsistent and complicated, the action violent, and the ethics confused. It is recommended for no one.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

UNHOLY GARDEN » »

Ronald Coleman, Estelle Taylor, Fay Wray. United Artists.

The action of this romantic melodrama takes place in a mythical spot on the Arabian desert. Ronald Coleman in his usual debonair manner makes robbery and violence seem the acts of a cultured English gentleman off on a holiday. The heroine in Paris gowns adds to the implausibility of the picture. Except for Coleman fans, the whole production is a waste of time.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

WEST OF BROADWAY » »

John Gilbert, Lois Moran. Seen in Preview. M.G.M.

A short life and a gay one is the choice of a nerve shattered soldier home from overseas, until upon one of his sprees he marries a deserving blonde who rushes him off to a ranch in Arizona and rehabilitates him. The plot has a slightly familiar ring, and the play is only fairly interesting. The acting is satisfactory but not outstanding.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Not recommended* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

WOMAN BREAKER » »

Lew Ayres. Direction Russell Mack. Universal.

This picture was reviewed in the October issue under the title "Heaven on Earth." The new title seems even less appropriate than the old one.

THE YELLOW TICKET » »

Elisa Landi, Lionel Barrymore. Direction by Roaul Walsh. Fox. From the play by Michael Morton.

This screen play, taken from the stage success of the same name, has a melodramatic theme which provides the audience with frequent opportunities to weep, hiss or cheer. In order to reach a dying father imprisoned in Russia, a young Jewish girl wears the "Yellow Ticket," badge of an old profession, which she however does not practice. Capable direction and excellent acting add merit to the picture which is good of its kind.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Unsuitable* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

# SHORT SUBJECTS

▲

**BALINESE LOVE** » »

Tom Terris Vagabond Adventures. Talking Picture Epics.

A native legend and appealing love story of a youth who saves his sweetheart from being burned alive as a human sacrifice. The scenery beggars description, it is so lovely. It is regretable that Tom Terris, the announcer, is exceedingly bad. Recommended for adults and Juniors but has too many vivid horrors for sensitive children.

**BARNYARD BROADCAST** » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon.

A broadcasting system set up in a barn by Mickey Mouse, is disorganized by a conscientious objector—a cat. She raises her voice against the performers, re-entering, every time she is put out, to the utter distraction and disruption of all the animals. Entertaining but with no special originality. Recommended for the family.

**EX ROOSTER** » »

Chic Sale, Aileen Carlyle. Direction Mark Sandrick. Radio Pictures. Seen in Preview.

All about a rooster that was intended for a stew and became a prize winner instead. Amusing for family audiences.

**THE FAMILY SHOE** » »

Aesop Fable Cartoon.

A Mother Goose cartoon, cleverly synchronized with good music and ingenious comedy. A mélange of "The Old Woman Who Lived in the Shoe" and "Jack and the Bean Stalk," wherein the old shoe becomes a jeweled slipper habitation. Amusing for the whole family.

**IDLE ROOMERS** » »

(One reel) Educational Comedies, Inc.

Two acrobats are adjudged insane by their landlady. She sends for alienists who in their endeavor to secure case facts also perform antics. The situation which arises when the booking agent appears on the scene adds to the fun. Innocuous and laughter-provoking.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Yes* | *Yes* |

**PATHE AUDIO REVIEW No. 4** » »

Pathe.

A pointless but amusing review of inconsequential subjects, all of which entertain pleasantly.

**SONG OF THE VOODOO** » »

Tom Terriss Vagabond Adventure. Pathe.

A travelogue portraying Haiti in its natural beauty, and contrasting modern and primitive customs of the natives. It has appeal for all audiences.

**SPIDER AND THE FLY** » »

Silly Symphony.

A fantasy of great charm and wit. Its style and art place it in a class by itself in the field of clever cartooning. The rhythm and mood of the music is entrancing and absurd. Two flies, caught by the scheming spider are rescued by hordes of fellow insects.

**THAT'S MY MEAT** » »

Educational.

Two burglars start to rob a meat market and not finding enough cash in the box, put on a sale. The humor is far-fetched and crude, and the facetious treatment of a crime problem is questionable in our present days of stress. It is not recommended.

**TORCHY PASSES THE BUCK** » »

2 reels. Educational Comedy.

The over zealous and blundering Torchy continues his career as an office boy. On this occasion he helps the boss' son out of a deer shooting scrape and fastens the blame on someone else. There are pranks and amusing incidents. Recommended for the family.

**TURN OF THE TIDE** » »

Floyd Gibbons Supreme Thrills.

Floyd Gibbons in person with animated maps and a too animated voice which dramatizes his explanation of the battle scenes at Chateau Thierry, shown on the film. It smacks too strongly of the emotional football announcers' sensational methods to seem in the best taste, but it has educational and historical value. Presentation poor for juniors or children.

# MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 1931

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
943 SOUTH HOOVER STREET

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# MOTION • PICTURE • REVIEWS

*Published monthly by*

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

« »

Mrs. John Vruwink, Mrs. Palmer Cook, *Co-Chairmen*

Mrs. Gerard A. Murray, *Preview Chairman*

EDITORS

Mrs. J. Allen Davis, Mrs. Palmer Cook, Mrs. Arthur Jones, Mrs. John Vruwink, Mrs. Walter Van Dyke, Mrs. F. H. Partridge

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# FEATURE FILMS

There are three pictures which call for special recommendation this month. "Arrowsmith" will appeal to discriminating adult audiences because of the interesting subject and the excellence of its production. "Way Down Home" is delightful in its homely philosophy and humor. "Delicious" with Janet Gaynor is different, entertaining and amusing.

## THE AGE FOR LOVE » »

Billie Dove, Charles Starrett, Edward Everett Horton. Direction by Frank Lloyd. From the novel by Ernest Pascal. United Artists.

This is a feeble echo of portions of "Divorcee" and "Seed". It seems to be an effort to prove something about a woman's obligations to her home and her husband, but it shows only how an ill-mated pair make a failure of matrimony, are divorced, and make a worse failure of divorce. Edward Everett Horton, entertainingly absurd as usual, brightens up a few spots in an otherwise dull picture. The relation of the title to the subject matter is not apparent.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Unsuitable*

Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

## ANYBODY'S BLONDE » »

Dorothy Revier. Direction by Henry Walthal. Columbia. Seen in preview.

The story is woven about a boxing championship. In order to win a bet of high stakes a night club owner and racketeer kills the champion just before the bout. The sister of the victim attempts to unravel the murder mystery. It is poor entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not suitable*

Children, 8 to 12 — *Not suitable*

## AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY MINUTES » »

Douglas Fairbanks. Direction by Victor Fleming. United Artists.

Douglas Fairbanks' acrobatic stunts add a touch of light entertainment to the educational value of this picture. Characteristic scenes on the Pacific Ocean at Honolulu, in Japan, Manilla, China, Indo-China, Siam and India are pictured with extraordinary beauty and charm. The photography is surpassingly good, the direction ingenious and different from the ordinary travelogue.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Excellent*

Children, 8 to 12 — *Excellent*

**ARROWSMITH** » »

Ronald Colman, Helen Hayes. Adapted from the novel by Sinclair Lewis. Direction by John Ford. United Artists.

"Arrowsmith" has unusual interest. Adapted from Sinclair Lewis' strong novel, it is a powerful, serious drama picturing the constant sacrifices and the bitter conflicts which seem inevitable in the life of a physician whose great forte is research. Ronald Colman gives an excellent performance making Dr. Arrowsmith a very likable person to whom one's sympathy is given, but Helen Hayes is outstanding in a difficult emotional role. It is a production which is well worth seeing.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Very mature* | *No. Too mature* |

**BIG SHOT** » »

Eddie Quillan, Maureen O'Sullivan, Belle Bennett, Roscoe Ates, Otis Harlan. Direction by Ralph Murphy. R.K.O. Pathe.

This is a light, innocuous farce, verging upon slapstick, in which small town characters and surroundings are so overdrawn as to be absurd to many adults. It is the story of an ambitious young man who borrows money to invest and is on the brink of failure when a most unexpected turn of events saves the day. But it is harmless fun which will probably appeal to children.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *A matter of taste* | *Fair* |

**BLONDE CRAZY** » »

James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Louis Calhern, Noel Frances. Direction by Roy del Ruth. Warner Bros.

The story deals with a bell-boy and a chambermaid who leave the hotel where they are employed and become involved in a racket. Dialogue and situations are crude and vulgar and demoralizing for young audiences. The picture is especially vicious in that it makes a hero of this boy who is a menace to law-abiding citizens and society in general.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

**THE CHAMP** » »

Wallace Beery, Jackie Cooper. Direction by King Vidor. M.G.M.

"The Champ" stirs one's emotions, but wholesomely. The story is not great nor unusual. It is that of a reprobate who makes a final comeback because of the love and faith of a child. But the acting is superb. With simple and sincere direction, it grips, and makes the figures on the screen real, believable, and lovable. The depressing and sordid background is not unduly emphasized, humor lightens the theme, and we think the picture is one which most people will be glad to have seen.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Good* | *Exciting and sad* |

**THE CHEAT** » »

Tallulah Bankhead, Irving Pichel. Direction by George Abbott. Paramount-Publix.

Elsa Carlyle, a weak, indiscreet wife, is portrayed by Miss Bankhead, while Irving Pichel is cast as a sensuous villain. The story moves rapidly if not too smoothly, and considering her indiscretions, Elsa comes off rather well with only a brand on her chest, burned on by the infuriated and frustrated villain (whom she incidentally shoots but not fatally). The climaxing court scene is such overdrawn melodrama that it approaches absurdity. Elsa's husband urges her to regard the whole matter as a bad dream, but from the point of view of the audience it may be a horrible nightmare.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Impossible* | *Impossible* |

**CONVICTED** » »

Aileen Pringle, Jameson Thomas.

"Convicted" is not recommended to your attention. It is a slow and cumbersome detective tale lacking all the elements of suspense and thrill necessary for this type of story. The action takes place on an ocean liner where the hunted bank robber tries to pin his guilt upon an innocent woman.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

**DELICIOUS** » »

Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, El Brendel, Paul Roulien. Direction by David Butler. Fox.

This picture is a delightful result of the combination of Janet Gaynor's winning personality and an entertaining story. It is well directed and technically above the average. Janet Gaynor as "Heather" the little Scotch immigrant is first seen in the steerage of an ocean liner bound for America. She and her friends, a family of Russian musicians, are full of hope and expectation and are

longing for the moment when they shall set foot upon American soil. Heather's adventures upon landing, her pluck, her heart aches and her eventual happiness draw strongly on the sympathies of her audience. The story is a sentimental one and the unfolding of the plot is obvious, but there are certain traits of character and emotions everyone likes to see depicted especially by a dainty little actress. Highlights of the picture are the scenes with the Russian family at home, and Heather bewildered in the terrifying rush of New York. The Russian troupe's little pantomime dance is a gem, El Brendel furnishes real comedy, and Charles Farrell looks very like a Hollywood movie idol while Gershwin's music is an interesting and integral part of the entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Excellent*
Children, 8 to 12: *Somewhat beyond them*

## THE FALSE MADONNA » »

Kay Francis, William Boyd. Adapted from the story "The Heart is Young" by May Edginton. Direction by Stuart Walker. Paramount-Publix.

A woman member of a blackmailing gang impersonates the mother of a child. His affectionate trust completes her desire for reformation. It is a romantic tale made entertaining for adults undoubtedly by the personalities of the cast. In less capable hands the incredible plot would be more apparent. Because it is the antithesis of real life we hesitate to recommend it for impressionable youth, although the action is not demoralizing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

## FRANKENSTEIN » »

Colin Clive, Boris Karloff, Mae Clarke. Adapted from the story by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly. Direction by James Whale. Universal.

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly's fantastic classic has been made into a picture which exceeds all precedent for ghastly thrills. There are some stories which we believe are not adapted to motion pictures because the human mind is more impressed by visual horror. This is one; and the masterful way in which it is presented accentuates its terrible characteristics. It is the story of a medical scientist who attempts to create a living man, and succeeds in producing a monster. There are few adults who will enjoy the succession of beastly acts this creature performs. It would be positively dangerous for children to see them.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No!*
Children, 8 to 12: *Absolutely not!*

## THE GALLOPING GHOST » »

Red Grange. Direction by Reaves Eason. All Star. Mascot serial, 12 Chapters, 7 previewed.

Football and the popularity of Red Grange have been made the bait to attract attention to this serial story. But football is used only as the motive for a betting ring, and the action immediately becomes the usual turmoil of criminal brutality, drunkenness, fights, kidnapping, and actual murder. In addition to the stirring action, sound has been used to accentuate terror, and we believe it is a dangerous form of entertainment for children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

## GOOD SPORT » »

Linda Watkins, John Boles. Direction by Kenneth MacKenna. Fox.

The story concerns Marilyn Parker who discovers that her husband has taken his mistress on a gay trip to Paris, and thereupon resolves to understudy that questionable lady's friends in order to become proficient in the art of ensnaring men. With such a motif the play might be far worse than it is. More than a little restraint has been used by the director, and the cast is excellent, but it would be difficult to find moral value in this play which emphasizes the attractiveness of extra legal relations and the inadequacy of marital bonds.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No*
Children, 8 to 12: *No*

## THE GUILTY GENERATION » »

Leo Carillo, Constance Cummings, Boris Karloff. Direction by Roland V. Lee. Columbia. Seen in preview.

Gangster films have ceased to be a novelty, and this one is probably as accurate in its portrayal as most. Two rival Italian families are almost annihilated by the retaliating murders. Leo Carillo injects some humor into an otherwise ghastly plot. Some of the cast look more Anglo Saxon than Italian but they play their parts well. The climax comes when Leo Carillo is shot by his own mother to prevent him from having his son-in-law, who is

related to the rival gangster, killed along with his own daughter.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Too ghastly* | *Too ghastly* |

### HIS WOMAN » »

Claudette Colbert, Gary Cooper. Direction by Edward Sloman. Paramount-Publix.

Claudette Colbert reforms and Gary Cooper forgets her past, all because they both learn to love a stray baby. This sentimental melodrama of a sea going baby, a captain and a questionable lady, takes place on a tramp freighter somewhere on the Carribbean. Even the splendid sea shots and the fact that the baby is a star actor cannot wipe out the unwholesome atmosphere which makes it doubtful entertainment for the young.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

### A HOUSE DIVIDED » »

Walter Huston, Kent Douglass, Helen Chandler. Directed by William Wyler. Universal Pictures Corp.

A splendidly acted tragedy of the conflict between father and son for the right to marry a girl, ending only with the father's death. The realism of this picture is too somber and cruel for juniors but the magnificent photography, acting and fine direction may recommend it to discriminating audiences, although it is stark drama with little or no relief.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

### LADY FROM NOWHERE » »

Alice Day, John Holland. Chesterfield Productions.

Just another "movie" of the gangster type, an innocent girl again the unwitting tool, this time of counterfeiters. It will fill an empty hour, but without profit.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

### LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD » »

Joe E. Brown. Direction by Mervyn Leroy. First National and Vitaphone.

An unnecessary and implausible drunken scene mars this otherwise highly entertaining and commendable comedy. The story concerns a college student who suffers from an inferiority complex and consoles himself by writing letters to an unknown girl. With the aid of coincidence, lucky breaks, and the interest of the girl he finally makes good.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Very entertaining* | *Possibly mature* |

### THE MAD GENIUS » »

John Barrymore. Direction by Michael Curtiz. Warner Bros.

You will not be disappointed in this film if you go to it rather as a connoisseur of dramatic impersonations than as one seeking entertainment, for Barrymore is convincing and will be applauded by his admirers. His role however is an unsympathetic one, and the plot is gloomy and somewhat fantastic. "The Mad Genius" is a club-footed individual with a scraggley goatee and thin moustache. He has been thwarted in his own ambition to become a dancer and is fanatically determined to make an expert dancer of someone else. A murder adds to the dismal effect.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Too gloomy* | *Depressing and uninteresting* |

### POSSESSED » »

Joan Crawford, Clark Gable. Adapted from the play "Mirage" by Edgar Selwyn. Direction by Clarence Brown. M. G.M.

An ambitious working girl from a paper box factory goes to New York and through improbable circumstances becomes the mistress of a wealthy man. In three years her character changes from a naive but determined country girl to that of a finished and charming lady. She is accorded all the love and honor bestowed upon exceptional wives and continues in this relationship until it becomes inconvenient for her lover who is being proposed for Governor. The director has made this social problem appear convincing and attractive. Handsome clothes, luxurious surroundings and a popular cast add to the allure which seems to represent the peak of a sophisticated modern attitude toward social behavior. It is because of this, that such pictures are dangerous. The trashiness is hidden so completely by trappings that thoughtless and youthful spectators are deceived. It is perniciously immoral.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Absolutely not* | *No* |

**RECKLESS LIVING** » »

Ricardo Cortez, Mae Clark, Marie Prevost. Universal.

There is nothing new to say about this sort of picture. It has to do with a group of gamblers, one of whom tries to attain independence through his earnings in the bootlegging business. It is not at all entertaining for any audience.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

**STRICTLY DISHONORABLE** » »

Sidney Fox, Lewis Stone, Paul Lukas. Adapted from stage play by William Sturges. Direction by John Stahl. Universal.

Those who enjoyed the original may not care equally for the screen presentation, though actually it is a smoothly entertaining comedy. Its "naughtiness" has been somewhat softened, but the action takes place in an Italian New York speakeasy, and the theme demands a thoroughly sophisticated adult audience who will accept the story with the lack of seriousness intended.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *No* | *No* |

**SUICIDE FLEET** » »

Bill Boyd, Robert Armstrong, James Gleason. Direction by Albert Rogell. R.K.O.-Pathe.

Three seamen in love with the same girl evoke many laughs, though occasionally the humor extends to vulgarity with the inevitable introduction of bars and blowsy women. This might leave little impression on adolescents who would certainly like the balance of the picture. In the latter part of the picture "Suicide Fleet" becomes a spirited tale of adventure and patriotism in which a decoy ship, manned by Americans, aids in the demolition of German submarines. It fails in being consistently good, but is entertaining once it gets under way.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Passable* | *Too exciting* |

**SURRENDER** » »

Warner Baxter, Leila Hyams, Audrey Smith, Alexander Kirkland. Direction by William K. Howard. Fox.

The poignant and appealing characterizations of this picture make a gripping story of war with its suffering and its devastation. Frank Swales as "Hugo" and Alexander Kirkland as "Dietrich" give dramatic and beautiful performances. The intensity and pathos may prove too harrowing for children but it will probably appeal to the average adult audience.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Very harrowing* | *No* |

**TONIGHT OR NEVER** » »

Gloria Swanson. Melvyn Douglas. Direction by Harold B. Franklin. United Artists.

This play, whether on stage or screen, is of the subtle variety that tends by witty lines and glamorous situations to condone a seriously unconventional thesis. The atmosphere is charming, yet the plot clearly justifies moral laxity. Deftly acted and directed for sophisticated audiences, it is slow poison for immature judgment.

| Adolescents, 12 to 16 | Children, 8 to 12 |
|---|---|
| *Absolutely not* | *No interest* |

**TOUCHDOWN** » »

Richard Arlen, J. Farrell McDonald, Jack Oakie, Regis Toomey, Peggy Shannon. Direction by Norman McCloud. Paramount-Publix.

"Touchdown" is a novel football story. It deals with a subject frequently under discussion among football fans and presents the problems of a college professional coach whose unethical methods of securing star players and ruthless treatment of the boys in games, makes him a dangerous foe to sportsmanship. This in contrast to another splendid leader whose ideals are of the highest. It is a great lesson in fair play, telling a colorful spirited story with a quick tempo and a variety of scenes, in which parts of actual

games are introduced and perfect continuity kept. The result is a picture of more than ordinary interest and entertainment value.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Good*

WAY BACK HOME » »

Philip Lloyd, Effie Palmer, Frank Albertson, Bette Davis, Frankie Darro. Directed by William Seiter. R.K.O.

Those who listen to Seth Parker on the radio will be particularly interested in "Way Back Home." It is a homely, New England tale with substantial character types, rather melodramatically acted and with plenty of pathos and comedy to sustain interest. Seth, the kindly town father, is the puppeteer who manipulates the strings and guides the actions and destinies of the neighborhood characters. Village life with its tragedies, its prejudices and its humor is a theme which seems to be perenially popular for family entertainment. The problems touched upon are of the kind that are typical of small town scandal, and while they may be considered mature for children, their working out is handled skillfully and with emphasis on the virtues of charity and kindness.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Mature*

# SHORT SUBJECTS

CAMERARING IN CHINA » »

Professor Tippey's series. (One reel). Talking Picture Epics.

A travelogue picturing Peking and the surrounding country, including the great wall of China. The photography and selected material is excellent. The descriptive talk is not so notable. It will be interesting to all audiences and is especially appropriate for youthful ones.

CHILDREN OF THE SUN » »

Vagabond Adventures. Pathe.

The charm and quiet peace of this vagabond wandering in Central America is depicted in a beautifully photographed picture.

COWBOY CABARET » »

Aesop Fable. Pathe.

A vulgar cartoon with suggestive dancing and bottle throwing. Not up to the usual animated cartoon standard. Not recommended.

HIGH ANDES » »

Produced by Lowell Thomas. Talking Picture Epics.

Very beautiful pictures of the High Andes which will prove interesting entertainment to all audiences.

I AM FROM SIAM » »

Accompanying description by Mr. D. S. Garden. Picture Classics, Inc.

This is an exceedingly interesting and instructive travelogue which gives one a better understanding of Siam and the Siamese people. It includes exclusive pictures of the cremation ceremonies of the former King and the coronation of King Prajahipok.

ISLE OF BIRDS » »

(One reel). Talking Picture Epics.

Very interesting pictures of the islands off the coast of Peru which are inhabited by millions of birds, notably Guano and Pelicans. It is instructive and entertaining for all audiences.

KIDDIE GENIUS » »

Produced by M. J. Weisfeldt for Picture Classics, Inc.

Four diversified acts presented by talented children. The charm of the picture is found in the natural, unself-conscious way in which the children perform. Entertaining for all ages.

**PACK AND SADDLE** » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.

This is too simple and amateurish in conception for the average audience. In spite of fine mountain and snow scenes, the sketch of game hunting in the Wyoming mountains is actually dull.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Fair*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Fair*

**PITCHING FORM** » »

(with Rusty Grove.) Talking Picture Epics.

Baseball fans will be interested in seeing "Lefty" Grove's exhibition as a pitcher in natural slow-motion pictures.

**RIDER OF RILEY** » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.

A Sportlight revealing the amazing horsemanship of officers at Fort Riley, well photographed and recorded. A thrilling polo game takes place, as well as cross-country riding with stunts which seem well-nigh incredible. The film rates high in entertainment value for all ages.

**SWIFT JUSTICE** » »

Spencer Gordon Bennett Production.

This Nick Harris authentic detective episode, depicted without skill or artistry, is a rehearsal of sordid crime details rather than an entertainment. Its only redeeming feature is the warning it illustrates against being too easily decoyed into trouble. The plot depicts the case, already familiar through newspaper accounts, of a Hollywood woman who was kidnapped but eventually rescued through the cleverness of a telephone operator. It is not recommended for adolescents and children.

**THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS** » »

Produced by David Horseley.

Antiquated silent feature based on the old poem "The Night Before Christmas."

**TAPA AND TAPU** » »

Produced by Emma Squire. Talking Picture Epics.

An interesting picture of customs of the people of the Samoa Islands. Well selected incidents which should prove entertaining to all audiences.

**UP BELOW THE EQUATOR** » »

Produced by Emma Lindsey Squier. Talking Picture Epics. One reel.

Unusual scenes of life in the Andes mountains in Peru, accompanied by descriptive talk by Mrs. Squier which is delightful in every way. Recommended for all audiences.

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Bad Girl - August
Bargain, The - October
Beloved Bachelor, The - November
Big Business Girl - August
Big Gamble - September
Big Shot - December
Blonde Crazy - December
Bought - September
Branded - July
Brat, The - September
Business and Pleasure - September

**C**

Caught - August
Caught Plastered - August
Champ, The - December
Chances - August
Cheat, The - December
Children of Dreams - August
Cisco Kid, The - October
Common Law, The - September
Consolation Marriage - November
Confession of A Co-Ed, The - July
Convicted - December
Cougar, or California Mountain Lion November
Cuban Love Song - November

**D**

Danger Island - August
Daughter of The Dragon - August
Delicious - December
Devotion - October
Dreyfus Case - November
Drums Of Jeopardy - July

**E**

Everything's Rosie - July

**F**

False Madonna, The - December
Fanny Foley Herself - November
Five and Ten - July
Five Star Final - November
Flying High - November
Forbidden Adventure - July
Frankenstein - December
Free Soul, A - July
Freighters Of Destiny - November
Friends And Lovers - October

**G**

Galloping Ghost (Serial) - December
Gay Diplomat - October
Get Rich Quick Wallingford - October
Girl Habit, The - August
Girls About Town - November
Gold Dust Gertie - July
Goldie - July
Good Sport - December
Graft - October
Great Lover, The - August
Guardsman, The - October
Guilty Generation, The - December
Guilty Hands - September

**H**

Heart Break - November
Heaven On Earth - October
High Stakes - September
His Woman - December
Holy Terror, A - July
Homicide Squad, The - November
Honeymoon Lane - August
House Divided, A - December
Huckleberry Finn - September
Hush Money - July

**I**

I Like Your Nerve - October
I Take This Woman - July
Immortal Vagabond, The - September

**J**

Juvenile Court - November
Just A Gigolo - July

**L**

Lady From Nowhere - December
Lasca Of The Rio Grande - October
Last Company, The - October
Last Flight, The - October
Local Boy Makes Good - December
Lost Valley - September
Lover Come Back - July

**M**

Mad Genius - December
Mad Parade, The - October
Magnificent Lie, The - September
Man In Possession, The - July
Merely Mary Ann - September
Miracle Woman, The - August
Monkey Business - September
Monsters Of The Deep - July
Mother and Son - October
Murder By The Clock - August
My Sin - October

**N**

Nigbt Angel, The - August
Night Life In Reno - October

**O**

Once A Lady - November
Other People's Business
See Way Back Home
Over The Hill - November

**P**

Pagan Lady, The - November
Palmy Days - November
Party Husband - July
Penrod And Sam - September
Personal Maid - October
Phantom Of Paris, The - October
Pleasure - October
Politics - September
Possessed - December
Public Defender - August

R

Rebound - - - - - - July
Reckless Hour, The - - - - September
Reckless Ladies - - - - - December
Reckless Living - - - - - December
Rich Man's Folly - - - - November
Riders Of The Purple Sage - - October
Road to Reno, The - - - - November
Road to Singapore, The - - - November
Ruling Voice, The - - - - November
Run Around, The - - - - September

S

Salvation Nell - - - - - August
Secret Call, The - - - - August
Secret Service - - - - - November
Secrets Of A Secretary - - - September
Side Show - - - - - October
Sidewalks Of New York - - - October
Silence - - - - - - September
Sin Of Madelon Claudet, The - - November
Skyline - - - - - - October
Smart Money - - - - - July
Smart Woman - - - - - October
Smiling Lieutenant, The - - - July
Sob Sister - - - - - October
Son Of India - - - - - August
Spider, The - - - - - September
Spirit Of Notre Dame, The - - November
Sporting Blood - - - - September
Squaw Man, The - - - - October
Star Witness, The - - - - September
Street Scene - - - - - October
Strictly Dishonorable - - - - December
Suicide Fleet - - - - December
Sundown Trail - - - - November
Surrender - - - - - December
Susan Lennox - - - - November
Sweepstakes - - - - - July

I

Tamale Vendor, The - - - - September
Their Mad Moment - - - - August
This Modern Age - - - - September
Three Who Loved - - - - August
Tip Off, The - - - - October
Tonight or Never - - - - December
Too Many Cooks - - - - September
Too Young To Marry - - - July
Touchdown - - - - December
Transatlantic - - - - - August
Transgression - - - - July
Traveling Husbands - - - September
Twenty-four Hours - - - September
Two Fisted Justice - - - - November

U

Unholy Garden - - - - November

V

Vice Squad, The - - - - - July
Viking - - - - - - July

W

Waterloo Bridge - - - - September
Way Back Home
Same as Other People's Business - December
West Of Broadway - - - November
White Devil, The - - - - October
Wicked - - - - - - October
Woman Between, The - - - September
Woman Breaker - - - - November
Women Go On Forever - - - September
Women Love Once - - - - July

Y

Yellow Ticket, The - - - - November

## SHORT SUBJECTS

Aesop Fables
Cowboy Cabaret - - - - December
Family Shoe - - - - - November
Flying High - - - - - October
Fun On Ice - - - - - September
Love In A Pond - - - - October

Blue Rhythm - - - - - October

Calling On Cairo - - - - October

Ex Rooster - - - - - November

Floyd Gibbons Supreme Thrills
Turn Of The Tide - - - November
Woodrow Wilson's Great Decision - October

Grantland Rice Sportlights
Battling Silver Kings - - - September
Blue Grass Kings - - - - July
Olympic Talents - - - - October
Pack and Saddle - - - - December
Pigskin Progress - - - - October
Poise - - - - - - September
Rider Of Riley - - - - December
Younger Years - - - - October

High Andes - - - - - December
Honeymoon Trio - - - - September

I Am From Siam - - - December
Idle Roomers - - - - - November
In A Clock Shop - - - - October

Kiddie Genius - - - - December

Mickey Mouse Cartoons
Barnyard Broadcast - - - November
Delivery Boy - - - - August
Fishin' Around - - - - October
Mickey Steps Out - - - - October
Moose Hunt - - - - - August
Mystery In Compartment C, The - October

Night Before Christmas - - - December

One Quiet Night - - - - September

Pathe Audio Review No. 4 - - November
Queenie Of Hollywood - - - October

Serials
Battling With Buffalo Bill - - October
Galloping Ghost - - - - December
King Of The Wild - - - October
Vanishing Legion - - - - October
Silly Symphony Cartoons
Busy Beavers - - - - August
Cat's Nightmare - - - - October
China Plate - - - - August
Egyptian Melodies - - - - October
Spider And The Fly - - - November
Swift Justice - - - - - December

Talking Picture Epics
Cameraring In China - - - December
Dutch Treat - - - - - October
Ghost Town - - - - - October
Heart Of A Nation - - - - July
Hell Below Zero - - - - October
Isle Of Birds - - - - December
Land That Time Forgot - - - October
Navajo Witch - - - - - October
Pitching Form - - - - - December
Pompeii - - - - - - October
Singing Waters - - - - October
Tapa And Tapu - - - - December
Top The Old World - - - October
Tropic Lure - - - - - October
Up Below The Equator - - - December
That's My Meat - - - - November
Tom Terris Vagabond Adventures
Balinese Love - - - - November
Children Of The Sun - - - December

Fallen Empire - - - - - September
Song Of The Voodoo - - - November
Utmost Isle - - - - - October
Torchy - - - - - - October
Torchy Passes The Buck - - - November

Up Pops The Duke - - - September

What A Bozo - - - - - September

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